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A

Midfommer Nights Dreame

Variant Edition



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Variant Edition

SHAKESPEARE



A

MIDSOMMER NIGHTS DREAME

FACSIMILE REPRINT OF THE TEXT OF THE
FIRST FOLIO, 1623

*With Foot-Notes giving every Variant in Spelling and
Punctuation occurring in the two Quartos of 1600,
according to the perfect Copies of the Original
Texts in the Barton Collection,
Boston Public Library*

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

34
HENRY JOHNSON



BOSTON AND NEW YORK
HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY
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Preface.

THE present edition of *A Midsummer nights Dreame* has been prepared with a view to assist in putting the study of this Shakespearian text on a more permanent basis than is commonly laid. It gives the original material in full, including every variation in spelling and punctuation of the two editions of the play published in Shakespeare's life-time, from the First Folio text. The latter has been used as the principal text for its having been the last which may have had the benefit of Shakespeare's manuscript authority.

While there will always be a place for conjectural emendation, the necessity for it is constantly diminishing with every advance in the knowledge of Elizabethan English.

Why should not the study of Shakespeare, at least in universities, begin with putting into the student's hands all the textual facts? Of course the student will never cease to need more help than the best teacher and all the commentators can give. This edition will be useful only if the supposition is correct, that teacher and student should be first concerned with what Shakespeare wrote, as far as the authoritative original texts enable us to judge. And it seems too much to assume that the grounds on which a word or a phrase is generally rejected as not Shakespeare's are either so profound or so delicate as to be beyond the judgment of any student. Whoever rejects the "Now bent" of I. 1. 10 must do so on other grounds than that it is less beautiful or apt than Rowe's emendation, "New-bent." The notes include every variation from the texts of Fisher, Roberts, and the Folio which the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions agree in adopting. For the source of these changes I am indebted to the Cambridge edition; I have, of course, verified the references whenever it has been

possible for me to do so. In all these editions the spelling and punctuation have been modernized throughout. Many stage-directions, which were deemed dispensable by the seventeenth-century editors, have been introduced into nearly all modern editions.

It is my agreeable duty to express my cordial thanks to Hon. Mellen Chamberlain, Librarian of the Boston Public Library, for facilities in the consultation of the Shakespearian treasures in his custody ; also to Mr. Arthur Mason Knapp, Librarian of Bates Hall, Boston Public Library, for courteous assistance.

BRUNSWICK, MAINE, *October*, 1887.

Introduction.

I. DATE OF COMPOSITION. — Of the earliest known reference to *A Midsummer nights Dreame*, Halliwell-Phillipps, in his indispensable *Outlines of the Life of Shakespeare*, Seventh Edition, Longmans, London, 1887, II, 148, writes as follows: "The following extracts [including other references to Shakespeare besides the allusion to the present play] are from a treatise entitled 'A comparative Discourse of our English poets with the Greeke, Latine and Italian poets,' which is near the end of a thick little volume called '*Palladis Tamia. Wits Treasury, being the Second part of Wits Commonwealth. By Francis Meres, Maister of Artes of both Universities. Viuitur ingenio, cætera mortis erunt.* — At London. — Printed by P. Short for Cuthbert Burbie, and are to be solde at his shop at the Royall Exchange, 1598.' There can be no doubt that this chapter was written in the summer of 1598, the work itself having been entered at Stationers' Hall on the 7th of September in that year, and there being in the Discourse a notice of Marston's *Satires* registered on the previous 27th of May."

The reference to the present play is as follows: "As *Plautus* and *Seneca* are accounted the best for Comedy and Tragedy among the Latines: so *Shakespeare* among y^e English is the most excellent in both kinds for the stage; for Comedy, witnes his *Gettemē of Verona*, his *Errors*, his *Loue labors lost*, his *Loue labours wonne*, his *Midsommers night dreame*, and his *Merchant of Venice*: for Tragedy his *Richard the 2.* *Richard the 3.* *Henry the 4.* *King Iohn*, *Titus Andronicus* and his *Romeo and Iuliet*."

The year 1598 is consequently a date before which the play must have been written. With this limitation, the actual date of composition is as yet a matter of pure conjecture, based on considerations of plot, style, rhythm, etc., or on imaginable

allusions to events of recent occurrence. Moreover, the play may have been composed in honor of a marriage, and on this as a principal ground has been supposed to have been written as early as in 1590, the year of the marriage of Essex. This is the year to which it is ascribed in the English Philological Society's Dictionary, *s. v. Abridgment*. Perhaps the most generally preferred date of composition is 1594.

II. THE FIRST EDITION. — The first edition was published in 1600 by Thomas Fisher, with the following title-page:—

A
Midfommer nights
dreame.

As it hath beene fundry times pub-
*lickely acted, by the Right honoura-
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his
seruants.*

Written by William Shakespeare.

[Publisher's device.]

¶ Imprinted at London, for *Thomas Fisher*, and are to
be foulded at his shoppe, at the Signe of the White Hart,
in *Fleetstreete*. 1600.

This title-page and that of the second edition according to the Barton copies were published in facsimile among the illustrations in Mr. Justin Winsor's *Shakespeare Bibliography*, Boston, 1876. Mr. Winsor states that at that date, 1876, the Barton copy was the only one of the first edition in the United States. This continues to be the case.

Every student of Shakespeare is grateful for the publication of facsimiles in photo-lithography of the first and second editions of this play, with introductions by J. W. Ebsworth, M. A., which were issued in London, 1880, in the series of *Shakspeare Quarto Facsimiles*, executed under the superintendence of F. J. Furnivall, M. A., Ph. D. The Fisher

quarto facsimile was made up from photographs of two copies, that of the Duke of Devonshire being used for fifty-five pages, and that of Mr. Alfred H. Huth for the other eight, deficient in the duke's copy. The perfect Barton copy shows many more variations from this facsimile than one would look for, even in a book of that period. In some eighty-one cases I have noted the absence of a punctuation-mark or a letter from the facsimile while it would be plainly present in the Barton copy; as, for instance, in I. i. 21, where the Barton copy has "*thee?*" and the facsimile "*thee*". In some sixty-one instances, where the facsimile might leave one in doubt as to the reading of the quarto, in such slight details as confusion of *f* and *j* or *r* and *t*, I find the Barton copy to furnish plainly the reading which would naturally be assumed to exist. In almost every case of this sort there can be no possible ambiguity as to the author's intention. This absence of doubt is also true in most cases of the lacking punctuation-marks and letters in the facsimile. There are also a few manifestly intentional corrections of the type during the course of the printing of the original edition.

The Fisher quarto (F) was entered in the Stationers' Register as follows:—

[A. D. 1600.] 8 Octobris.

Thomas ffysshher Entred for his Copie vnder the handes of
master RODES / and the Wardens, A booke called *A Myd-
sommer nightes Dreame*. . . vjd¹

It was published in the same year, and consists of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page, excepting in the case of leaves G and G₂, which have on each of the four pages thirty-four lines. The Duke of Devonshire's copy of the Roberts quarto has B₁ *verso* and B₂ *recto* printed from the identical forms which served for the same pages of the Fisher quarto. These pages, not being *recto* and *verso* of one leaf, cannot have been inserted in the copy. They prove the priority of the Fisher quarto, in which these pages are uniform in individualities of spelling with all the others, while they are conspicu-

¹ From Prof. Arber's *Transcript of the Registers of the Company of Stationers*, etc., III. 174, as quoted in the Fisher facsimile, page v, above referred to.

ously different from all the others in the Roberts quarto. The Barton copy of the Roberts quarto does not show this peculiarity, but has the two pages referred to quite uniform in spelling with the rest of the Roberts text. The copy used by the Cambridge editors was like the Barton.

This proves that there were at least two issues of the Roberts quarto. The punctuation of the Fisher quarto is careful, and, being manifestly rhetorical, if I may term it so, rather than grammatical, can never be ignored in the interpretation of the text.

III. THE SECOND EDITION. — The second edition (R) was not entered in the Stationers' Register. It was published in the same year as the first, with the following title-page : —

A
Midfommer nights
dreame.

As it hath beene fundry times pub-
likely acted, by the Right Honoura-
ble, the Lord Chamberlaine his
seruants.

Written by William Shakespeare.

[Printer's device.]

Printed by Iames Roberts, 1600.

It consists likewise of thirty-two leaves, thirty-five lines to a full page. It corresponds with F, page for page to a word, though not line for line, excepting in the cases of leaves G and G₂ which are set up, presumably by oversight, a line short in F. With the last line of G₃ *recto* the uniformity with F is restored.

Although the identity of B *verso* and B₂ *recto* in R (Duke of Devonshire's copy) and F does not prove that Roberts was the printer of F, it shows, nevertheless, that he *may* have been, and so may have had access to the MS. which was used for F.

Almost the only improvements in R over F are typographi-

cal, consisting mainly in corrections of some twelve or fifteen misprints, none of them less obvious than that of *I. 1. 4, wanes* for *waues* in F. In one place, *V. 1. 7-9*, the alignment is corrected. Mention is made in the Notes of a few cases in which R has the appearance of having done more than correct the printer's errors in F; yet the ground of these changes may have been in the context only.

R changed freely the spelling and punctuation of F, and made frequent substitution of one word or phrase for another, with the result of mere variation in form, and not in sense.

R is not printed with nearly as great care as F. Cases of inferiority are numerous throughout the text. The facsimile of R in the Shakspeare Quarto Facsimile series, above referred to, shows a much closer likeness of the Duke of Devonshire's copy, from which the photographs were taken, to the Barton copy than was the case in the copies of F. There are only about twenty instances of seemingly lacking punctuation-marks or of like relatively insignificant variations, and some twenty-five cases in which the facsimile shows defective or doubtful punctuation or letters; as, for instance, in *IV. 1. 182, worne.* as against *worne*, in the Barton copy. There are at present six copies of the original Roberts quarto in the United States, located or owned as follows:—

Boston Public Library, Barton Collection.

Mr. Theodore Irwin, Oswego, N. Y.

Mr. Charles H. Kalbfleisch, New York.

Lenox Library, New York.

Mr. N. Q. Pope, Brooklyn.

University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

Through the uniform kindness of the custodians or owners I have ascertained that these copies are all of the second issue.

IV. THE THIRD EDITION.—The third edition of the play consisted of pages 145-162 in the division of Comedies in the First Folio, 1623. This first collective edition of Shakspeare's plays adopted the Roberts text of the present play. It continues many obvious blunders of R, while its corrections of R and agreement with F are with rare exceptions plainly such as any intelligent reader could make.

The First Folio was reprinted with marvellous accuracy by

Lionel Booth, London, 1862-4. My collation of this reprint with the Barton copy did not result in the detection of a single variation except in the wholly insignificant case of IV. 1. 75, *Queene* for *Queen* in the Barton copy. As a matter of curiosity I note that the Barton copy and the Booth reprint agree in the misprinting of III. 1. 124, *with*, with inverted *i*, as against *with* in Staunton's Lithographic Facsimile of the First Folio, London, 1866 ; likewise in III. 2. 138, *my*, as against *my* in Staunton. These microscopic variations probably exist in the originals.

Notes.

THE *division* of the text *into scenes*, in the present edition, is that adopted by modern editors, almost without exception.

The *line-numbers* of the parts of the play in verse are those of the metrical, and not of the typographical, arrangement. The lines of the parts in prose are numbered according to the printing of the First Folio which is facsimiled in this edition.

The three texts are identical in spelling, punctuation, and alignment except so far as the foot-notes show the contrary. It seemed useless, however, to include such a variation as the abbreviation *Hyp.* for *Hip.* when the same personage is unmistakably referred to in the three texts.

F stands for Fisher quarto.

R stands for Roberts quarto.

R* stands for “ “ facsimile, Shakspeare Quarto Facsimiles, London, 1880.

²³FR3 indicates that F and R begin their third page with the twenty-third line. The title-page is numbered 1, the reverse of it is blank, the next printed page, that of the opening of the play, 2, and so on.

[145¹] indicates the page and column in the First Folio.

;]! F : R indicates that the ; is replaced by an ! in F and by a : in R.

-]om. F indicates that the hyphen is omitted, and that the words or parts of words so connected in the Folio are printed as *one* word in F. When a hyphen is in the Folio and the words are printed as two in F or R, they are so written in the foot-notes.

/ marks the end of a line.

is : / F is. / R indicates that the metrical line referred to is printed as a single line in F and R ending as shown.

The *dates* of the *principal* older editions of Shakespeare, and of such recent ones as are referred to in the notes, are : —

- 1632 Second Folio.
- 1664 Third “
- 1685 Fourth “
- 1709 Rowe.
- 1714 “ , 2d edition.
- 1725 Pope.
- 1728 “ , 2d edition.
- 1733 Theobald.
- 1744 Hanmer.
- 1747 Warburton.
- 1765 Johnson.
- 1767 Capell.
- 1790 Malone.
- 1793 Johnson and Steevens, 4th edition, revised and augmented by Isaac Reed.
- 1821 Boswell's Variorum.
- 1853 Halliwell's Folio edition.
- 1857 Dyce.
- 1863 Cambridge edition, Clark and Wright.
- 1864 Globe edition, Clark and Wright.
- 1877 Clarendon Press edition of Shakespeare's Select Plays, Wright.
- 1877 Friendly edition, Rolfe.
- [1877-1881] Leopold edition, text of Delius, introd. by Furnivall (Delius' 5th Germ. ed., 1882).
- 1880 Harvard edition, Hudson.
- 1883 Riverside edition, White.

Unless an exception is made by showing in () the practice of a single editor, *the notes give merely the name of the editor proposing the given change*, which has been uniformly adopted by succeeding editors. Thus I. i. 10 Now bent] New-bent Rowe indicates that Rowe made the change referred to, and has been followed generally; and in particular by, at least, the Cambridge, Globe, Clarendon Press, Delius, Rolfe, Hudson, and White editions.

The *stage-directions* which are not assigned to any editor in the notes, are all as early as Capell, except V. i. 44, 48, 52, 56, 291, 334. I have not at hand the means to trace the source of the changes referred to in the notes on IV. i. 42 and 55.

- I. i. SCENE I. *Athens. The Palace of THESEUS.*
- 3 Moon Fo.] The absence of the final *e* seems to be due to a practice of omitting this silent letter in the case of crowded lines. This contraction

applies also to final double consonants, as in line 7, *wil*, and often. Compare I. 1. 201, *wold* R Fo, *wer* Fo. These shorter forms were also sometimes used, when there was no such typographical reason. F has *nights* on the title-page and at the top of page 2, where there was not in either case space for an extra *e*; the head-line of each page, however, excepting p. 61, has *nighes*.

- 10 Now bent] New-bent *Rowe*.
 15 [*Exit Philostrate.*] *Theobald*.
 24 *Stand forth Demetrius*. F and
 26 *Stand forth Lisander*. F are the only stage-directions in F which have the personal names in italics. They were first printed as part of the text by *Rowe*.
 127 *Exeunt* Fo] The loss or the lack of a punctuation-mark at the very end of a line is not uncommon; compare l. 201, I. 2. 110, and often.
 136 loue] low *Theobald*.
 187 Your words I] Yours would I *Hanmer*.
 191 Ile (*Delius*)] I'd *Hanmer*.
 216 sweld] sweet *Theobald*.
 219 strange companions] stranger companies *Theobald*.

I. 2. SCENE II. *Athens*.
 QUINCE'S house. *Capell*.

II. 1. SCENE I. *A wood near Athens*.

- 7 Moons FR Fo] The printers in all three cases may have omitted an *e* because of a crowded line.
 48, 49 . . . crab / . . . bob /] Compare for the rhyme V. 1. 290-I. . . . pap / . . . hop /
 60 (SCENE II. *Delius*.)
 61 Fairy] Fairies *Theobald*. See note on IV. 2. 206.
 79 Eagles] Ægle *Rowe*.
 91 Hath] Have *Rowe*, 2d ed.
 109 chinne] thin *Halliwell*, *Tyrwhitt's conjecture*.
 177 when she FFo whence she R] For a somewhat similar perversion of the text see IV. 1. 79, loath his F, loathe this R, loath this Fo, and IV. 1. 190, thing seemes FR, things seemes Fo.
 190 stay] slay *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture*.
 stayeth] slayeth *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture*.
 242 [*Exit* DEM. *Capell* (om. *Delius*, *Hudson*.)
 244 (*Exit*) *Exeunt* DEMETRIUS and HELENA. *Delius*, *Hudson*.
 247 *Enter Pucke.*] *Re-enter* PUCKE, after line 246.

- II. 2. SCENE II. *Capell.* (SC. III. *Delius.*)
Another part of the wood.
 26 [*Exeunt Fairies.* *Rowe.*
Enter OBERON, and squeezes the flower on Titania's eyelids. *Capell.*
 34 [*Exit.* *Rowe.*
 57 humane] human *Fourth Folio, 1685.*
 100 Lysander! *Capell.*
 119 humane] human *Fourth Folio, 1685.*
- III. 1. SCENE I. *The wood.* TITANIA lying asleep.
 66 or] and *Collier MS.*
 74 *Enter Pucke behind.*
 79 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*
 81 *Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Bot.*
 85 [*Exit.* *Capell.*
 86 *This. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*
 90 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*
 98 *Thys. (Delius, Hudson.)*] *Flu.*
 100 Re-enter PUCK, and BOTTOM with an ass' head.]
Capell.
Pir. (Delius, Hudson.)] *Bot.*
 159 First Fai. Ready.
Sec. Fai. And I.
Third Fai. And I.
Fourth Fai. And I. (*om. Delius.*)
All. (Fourth Fai. Delius.) Where shall we go?
Capell.
 171 First Fai. Hail, mortal!
Sec. Fai. Hail! *Capell.*
 172 Third Fai. Hail! *Capell.*
 173 Fourth Fai. Hail! *Capell.*
 192 you (*Delius*)] your *Third Folio, 1664* (you of *Collier MS., Hudson, Rolfe.*)
- III. 2. SCENE II. *Another part of the wood.*
 6 love.] *Rowe.*
 80 part I so : / See me no more, whether *Pope.*
 85 slip] sleep *Rowe.*
 141 coniealed F] Compare "coniealed frost" in *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites, Lond. 1584, p. 3, l. 7*; reprinted by Prof. Arber in *The English Scholar's Library, No. 3.*
 190 bare] bear *Fourth Folio, 1685.*
 201 See note on l. 257.
 213 first life] first, like *Theobald, Folkes's conjecture.*
 250 praise] prayers *Theobald.*
 257 The text and the printing of F seem to me perfectly defensible. There is certainly no printed

unaccented syllable in the fifth foot, but on the stage the second *no* may have been delivered in the time of two syllables, if not actually as *no-o*. The typographical disarrangement which R introduced and Fo copied shows that, although they did not appreciate the rhythm of F, yet they did not add an extra monosyllabic word. The same uniform treatment by FRFo is to be observed in lines 201 and 421 of this scene. Compare Abbott, Shak. Gram., 482.

264 O (*Delius*)] *om. Pope.*

406 Speak! In some bush?] *Capell.*

413 *Re-enter* LYSANDER.

420 [*Sleeps. Capell.*

421 See note on l. 257.

430 [*Lies down and sleeps. Capell.*

440 *Enter Hermia*] *Re-enter Hermia* after l. 441.

447 [*Lies down and sleeps.*

451 To your eye] *Rowe.*

452 *Squeezing the juice on Lysander's eyes. Rowe.*

IV. 1.

SCENE I. *The same.* LYSANDER, DEMETRIUS,
HELENA, and HERMIA *lying asleep.*

The lines of this scene are wrongly numbered in the Globe ed. Titania's lines 27 and 30 are reckoned as two each.

41 alwaies] all ways *Theobald* (a while *Hanmer*,
Hudson, *White*.)

42 *Omit commas.*

55 flowerets'

73 or] o'er *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture.*

82 these five *Theobald*, *Thirlby's conjecture.*

93 Faire Fo] Compare V. 1. 16 aire Fo.

117 Seem'd *Second Folio*, 1632.

133 right] rite *Pope.*

172 see] saw *Steevens.* See for *saw* occurs very commonly in dialect usage in Maine, and presumably in Northern New England generally. "Soons he see me cummin, he run."

173 a] in *Steevens.*

206 about expound F] The emendation of F which seems necessary here, namely, *about t'expound*, is quite like that of II. 1. 61, Fairy skippe (skip RFo) FRFo Fairies skip, which was made by *Theobald*.

208 but patcht a FR] Compare As You Like It, I. 1. 2, *but poor a*; and Abbott, Shak. Gram., 422.

IV. 2. SCENE II. *Athens. QUINCE's house. Omit Thisby.*14 naught *Second Folio, 1632.*28 I am not true *Athenian* FR] Compare *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, p. 30: —

I wil be stil readie, as I am true man.

V. 1. SCENE I. *Athens. The palace of THESEUS.*43 [*Giving a paper. Theobald.*44 [*Reads.*]48 [*Reads.*]52 [*Reads.*]56 [*Reads.*]84 [*Exit PHILOSTRATE.*105 [*Re-enter PHILOSTRATE. Theobald.*176 [*Wall holds up his fingers. Capell.*202 [*Exeunt PYR. and THIS. Dyce.*205 morall] mural *Pope, 2d ed. (wall White.)*

Now is the Moon vsed between the two neighbors. FR] The agreement of R with F gives a strong presumption in favor of the correctness of a reading. Something besides can be said for the reasonableness of this passage, which, as far as I can learn, has every editor against it. The Prologue had announced, lines 134-7: —

This man, with lanterne, dogge, and bush of thorne,
Presenteth moone-shine. For if you will know,
By moone-shine did these louers thinke no scorne
To meete at *Ninus* tombe, there, there to wooe :

The Enterlude then proceeded as far as this agreement of Pyramus and Thisbie to meet at the tomb, and Wall, who had served between the two neighbors, makes his explanation and leaves the stage. Thereupon the Duke says that now, in accordance with the statement of the Prologue, the Moon will be used between the two neighbors, probably in some such ingenuous way as the Wall had been.

260 [*The Lion shakes Thisbe's mantle, and exit. Capell.*266 beames] gleams *Staunton, Knight's conjecture.*

268 The following "Sonet" from *Clement Robinson's A Handefull of pleasant delites*, Arber's Reprint, pp. 30-32, shows marked coincidences with parts of this Enterlude, both in words and rhythm.

*A new Sonet of Pyramus and Thisbie.**To the [tune of], Downe right Squier.*

- [Y] Ou Dames (I say) that climbe the mount of *Helicon*,
Come on with me, and giue account, what hath been
don :
Come tell the chaunce ye Muses all, and dolefull newes,
Which on these Louers did befall, which I accuse.
In *Babilon* not long agone, a noble Prince did dwell :
whose daughter bright dimd ech ones sight, so farre she
did excel.
- ¶ An other Lord of high renowne, who had a sonne :
And dwelling there within the towne, great loue be-
gunne :
Pyramus this noble Knight, I tel you true :
Who with the loue of *Thisbie* bright, did cares renue :
It came to passe, their secrets was, bekowne vnto them
both :
And then in minde, they place do finde, where they their
loue vnclothe.
- ¶ This loue they vse long tract of time, till it befell :
At last they promised to meet at prime, by *Minus* well :
Where they might louingly imbrace, in loues delight :
That he might see his *Thisbies* face, and she his sight :
In ioyful case, she approcht the place, where she her
Pyramus
Had thought to viewd, but was renewd, to them most
dolorous.
- ¶ Thus while she staies for *Pyramus*, there did proceed :
Out of the wood a Lion fierce, made *Thisbie* dreed :
And as in haste she fled awaie, her Mantle fine :
The Lion tare in stead of praie, till that the time
That *Pyramus* proceeded thus, and see how lion tare
The Mantle this of *Thisbie* his, he desperately doth fare.
- ¶ For why he thought the lion had, faire *Thisbie* slaine.
And then the beast with his bright blade, he slew cer-
taine :
Then made he mone and said alas, (O wretched wight)
Now art thou in a woful case for *Thisbie* bright :
Oh Gods aboue, my faithfull loue shal neuer faile this
need :
For this my breath by fatall death, shal weaue *Atropos*
threed.
- ¶ Then from his sheathe he drew his blade, and to his hart
He thrust the point, and life did vade, with painfull
smart :
Then *Thisbie* she from cabin came with pleasure great,
And to the well apase she ran, there for to treat :
And to discusse, to *Pyramus* of al her former feares.
And when slaine she, found him truly, she shed forth
bitter teares.
- ¶ When sorrow great that she had made, she took in hand
The bloudie knife, to end her life, by fatall hand.

You Ladies all, peruse and see, the faithfulness,
 How these two Lovers did agree, to die in distresse:
 You Muses waile, and do not faile, but still do you
 lament:
 These louters twaine, who with such paine, did die so
 well content.

Finis.

I. Thomson.

- 291 [*Stabs himself. (om. Delius.)*]
 297 [*Exit Moonshine. Capell.*]
 298 [*Dies. Capell.*]
 304 ? [*om. Rowe.*]
 310 Moth (*Delius*)] mote *Steevens, Heath's conjecture.*
 334 [*Stabs herself. (om. Delius.)*]
 340 Bot. (*Starting up.*) *Capell. (om. Delius, Hudson.)*
 350 [*A dance. Capell.*]
 359 (SCENE II. *Capell, Delius.*)
 lion] *Rowe.*
 360 beholds] behowls *Theobald, Warburton.*
 388 *The Song.*] *Song and dance. Capell.*
 407-8 These lines were transposed by *Staunton*, who
 is followed by *Clar. Press, Globe, Hudson, Rolfe,*
 and *White.*
 410 [*Exeunt King, Queen, and train. Capell.*]

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

(*First given by Rowe.*)

THESEUS, Duke of Athens.

EGEUS, father to Hermia.

LYSANDER, } in love with Hermia.

DEMETRIUS, }

PHILOSTRATE, master of the revels to Theseus.

QUINCE, a carpenter.

SNUG, a joiner.

BOTTOM, a weaver.

FLUTE, a bellows-mender.

SNOUT, a tinker.

STARVELING, a tailor.

HIPPOLYTA, queen of the Amazons, betrothed to Theseus.

HERMIA, daughter to Egeus, in love with Lysander.

HELENA, in love with Demetrius.

OBERON, king of the fairies.

TITANIA, queen of the fairies.

PUCK, or Robin Goodfellow.

PEASEBLOSSOM, }

COBWEB, }

MOTH, }

MUSTARDSEED, }

} fairies

Prologue,

Pyramus,

Thisbe,

Wall,

Moonshine,

Lion,

} Characters in the Interlude performed by the Clowns.

Other fairies attending their King and Queen. Attendants on Theseus and Hippolyta.

SCENE. *Athens, and a wood not far from it.*





A
M I D S O M M E R
Nights Dreame.

Actus primus.

Enter Theseus, Hippolita, with others.

Theseus.

Now faire Hippolita, our nuptiall houre [145¹]
Drawes on apace: foure happy daies bring in
Another Moon: but oh, me thinkes, how slow
This old Moon wanes; She lingers my desires
Like to a Step-dame, or a Dowager, 5
Long withering out a yong mans reuennew.

Hip. Foure daies wil quickly sleepe theselues in nights
Foure nights wil quickly dreame away the time:
And then the Moone, like to a filuer bow,
Now bent in heauen, shal behold the night 10
Of our solemnities.

The. Go *Philostrate*,
Stirre vp the Athenian youth to merriments,
Awake the pert and nimble spirit of mirth,
Turne melancholy forth to Funerals:
The pale companion is not for our pompe, 15
Hippolita, I woo'd thee with my sword,
And wonne thy loue, doing thee iniuries:
But I will wed thee in another key,
With pompe, with triumph, and with reuelling.

*Enter Egeus and his daughter Hermia, Lyfander,
and Demetrius.*

Ege. Happy be *Theseus*, our renowned Duke. 20

The. Thanks good *Egeus*: what's the news with thee?

Ege. Full of vexation, come I, with complaint
Against my childe, my daughter Hermia.

Stand forth Demetrius.

FR2 *Actus primus.*] om. FR ¹hower F ²Draws F apafe F fower F
³An other F Moone FR me thinks F me-thinks R ⁴Moone FR
waues F ;] F : R -fires, F ⁵]om. F -dam R ⁶young R reu-
newe F reuennew R ⁷Fower F will FR sleepe FR night: F ⁸Fower F
nights]daies R will FR ⁹bowe F ¹⁰shall FR beholde F ¹¹Goe FR
¹²peart FR ¹³fourth FR ¹⁴pomp F ¹⁵] FR ¹⁶*Hyp.* F ¹⁷reuel-
ing F *Lyfander*] and *Lyfander* and *Helena* F and *Lyfander, Helena* R
²¹Thanks F :] FR Whats F newes FR ²³FR3 ²⁴fourth R *Deme*-FR

My Noble Lord,
This man hath my consent to marrie her. 25

Stand forth Lyfander.

And my gracious Duke,
This man hath bewitch'd the bosome of my childe :
Thou, thou *Lyfander*, thou hast given her rimes,
And interchang'd loue-tokens with my childe :
Thou hast by Moone-light at her window fung, 30
With faining voice, verses of faining loue,
And stolne the impressiō of her fantasie,
With bracelets of thy haire, rings, gawdes, conceits,
Knackes, trifles, Nose-gaies, sweet meats (messengers
Of strong preuailment in vnhardned youth) 35
With cunning hast thou filch'd my daughters heart, [145²]
Turn'd her obedience (which is due to me)

To stubborne harshnesse. And my gracious Duke,
Be it so the will not heere before your Grace,
Consent to marrie with *Demetrius*, 40
I beg the ancient priuiledge of Athens ;
As she is mine, I may dispose of her ;
Which shall be either to this Gentleman,
Or to her death, according to our Law ;
Immediately provided in that case. 45

The. What say you *Hermia*? be aduis'd faire Maide,
To you your Father should be as a God ;
One that compos'd your beauties ; yea and one
To whom you are but as a forme in waxe
By him imprinted : and within his power, 50
To leaue the figure, or disfigure it :

Demetrius is a worthy Gentleman.

Her. So is *Lyfander*.

The. In himselfe he is.

But in this kinde, wanting your fathers voyce.
The other must be held the worthier. 55

Her. I would my father look'd but with my eyes.

The. Rather your eies must with his iudgment looke.

Her. I do entreat your Grace to pardon me.

I know not by what power I am made bold,

²⁵ -ry FR ²⁶ foorth R *Lif* F -tious F ²⁷ -wicht FR :]. F ²⁹ loue
tokens FR ³³ haft, F -light, F -dowe F ³² phantasie : F ³³ -ceites F
³⁴ Knacks R -]om. FR ³⁵ sweete F meates FR ³⁵ -uailment FR
-dened FR ³⁶ filcht FR ³⁷ Turnd FR mee F ³⁸ And, F -tious F
³⁹ fo, F here, F here R ⁴⁰ -ry FR ⁴¹ aun- F ;]: F ⁴² ;]: F ⁴³ be, F
⁴⁴ ;]: F lawe F ⁴⁵ -atly FR -ded, F ⁴⁶ you, F -uif'd, FR maid FR
]. F ⁴⁷ you, F shoud R ;]: FR ⁴⁸ ;]: F one, FR ⁴⁹ whome F
wax, F wax R ⁵⁰ ;]: FR ⁵³ *Lif* F is: / F is. / R ⁵⁴ voice F .]. FR
⁵⁶ FR4 lookt FR ⁵⁷ eyes FR must, F iudgement, F iudgement R .]. F
⁵⁸ doe F intreat F intreate R grace, F mee F ⁵⁹ power, F bould ; F

Nor how it may concerne my modestie 60
In such a preface heere to pleade my thoughts :
But I beseech your Grace, that I may know
The worst that may befall me in this case,
If I refuse to wed *Demetrius*.

The. Either to dye the death, or to abiure 65
For euer the society of men.
Therefore faire *Hermia* question your desires,
Know of your youth, examine well your blood,
Whether (if you yeeld not to your fathers choice)
You can endure the liuerie of a Nunne, 70
For aye to be in shady Cloister mew'd,
To liue a barren sister all your life,
Chanting faint hymnes to the cold fruitlesse Moone,
Thrice blessed they that master so their blood,
To vndergo such maiden pilgrimage, 75
But earthlier happie is the Rose distil'd,
Then that which withering on the virgin thorne,
Growes, liues, and dies, in single blessednesse.

Her. So will I grow, so liue, so die my Lord, [146¹]
Ere I will yeeld my virgin Patent vp 80
Vnto his Lordship, whose vnwished yoake,
My soule consents not to giue soueraignty.

The. Take time to pause, and by the next new Moon
The sealing day betwixt my loue and me,
For euerlasting bond of fellowship : 85
Vpon that day either prepare to dye,
For disobedience to your fathers will,
Or else to wed *Demetrius* as hee would,
Or on *Dianaes* Altar to protest
For aie, austeritey, and single life. 90

Dem. Relent sweet *Hermia*, and *Lyfander*, yeelde
Thy crazed title to my certaine right.

Lyf. You haue her fathers loue, *Demetrius* :
Let me haue *Hermiaes* : do you marry him.

Egeus. Scornfull *Lyfander*, true, he hath my Loue ; 95
Aud what is mine, my loue shall render him.

⁶⁰ modesty, FR ⁶¹ preface, here FR plead FR :; R ⁶² knowe F
⁶³ mee F ⁶⁵ dy F die R abiure, F ⁶⁶ euer, F ⁶⁷ Therefore, F
Hermia, FR ⁶⁸ Knowe F ⁶⁹ yeelde F choyce FR ⁷⁰ liucry FR
⁷¹ cloyster, F, ⁷² *Jon.* FR ⁷³ barraine F ⁷⁴ Chaunting F hymnes, F
colde FR, ⁷⁵ *Thy.* FR ⁷⁶ Thrife F they, F bloode F ⁷⁷ vndergoe F
;], F ⁷⁸ earthlier F happy FR distild FR ⁷⁹ that, which, F ⁸⁰ growe F
dye R ⁸¹ yeeld F Patent, F ⁸² -shippe F yoake,] yoake FR ⁸³ -ainty FR
⁸⁴ pawse F newe F moone, FR ⁸⁵ day, F mee F ⁸⁶ -shippe, F
⁸⁷ -ius, FR he FR wold R ⁸⁸ -test, FR ⁸⁹ aye FR ⁹⁰ -tie and F ⁹¹ FR5
Relent, F sweete FR and, F yeeld FR ⁹² -mias FR doe F
⁹³ Scornefull F ;] F ⁹⁴ And FR

And ſhe is mine, and all my right of her,
I do eſtate vnto *Demetrius*.

Lyf. I am my Lord, as well deriu'd as he,
As well poſſeſt : my loue is more then his : 100
My fortunes euery way as fairely ranck'd
(If not with vantage) as *Demetrius* :
And (which is more then all theſe boaſts can be)
I am belou'd of beauteous *Hermia*.

Why ſhould not I then profecute my right ? 105
Demetrius, Ile auouch it to his head,
Made loue to *Nedars* daughter, *Helena*,
And won her foule : and ſhe (ſweet Ladie) dotes,
Deuoutly dotes, dotes in Idolatry,
Vpon this ſpotted and inconstant man. 110

The. I muſt confeſſe, that I haue heard ſo much,
And with *Demetrius* thought to haue ſpoke thereof :
But being ouer-full of ſelfe-affaires,
My minde did loſe it. But *Demetrius* come,
And come *Egeus*, you ſhall go with me, 115
I haue ſome priuate ſchooling for you both.
For you faire *Hermia*, looke you arme your ſelfe,
To fit your fancies to your Fathers will ;
Or elſe the Law of Athens yeelds you vp
(Which by no meanes we may extenuate) 120
To death, or to a vow of ſingle life.

Come my *Hippolita*, what cheare my loue ?
Demetrius and *Egeus* go along :
I muſt employ you in ſome buſineſſe
Againſt our nuptiall, and conferre with you 125
Of ſomething, neerely that concernes your ſelues.

Ege. With dutie and deſire we follow you. *Exeunt*

Manet Lyſander and Hermia.

Lyf. How now my loue ? Why is your cheek ſo pale ?
How chance the Roſes there do fade ſo faſt ?

Her. Belike for want of raine, which I could well 130
Beteeme them, from the tempeſt of mine eyes.

Lyf. For ought that euer I could reade,
Could euer heare by tale or hitorie,

⁹⁷ her,] her FR ⁹⁸ doe F ⁹⁹ hee FR ¹⁰⁰ than F ¹⁰¹ rankt F
ranckt R ¹⁰³ boastes F ¹⁰⁴ -tious FR ¹⁰⁶ heade F ¹⁰⁸ ſweete FR
Lady R ¹¹¹ much ; F ¹¹² And, F ^{-ius,} FR :]; R ¹¹³ But, F
ouer full FR ſelfe af- F ¹¹⁴ loofe F ¹¹⁵ goe F mee : F ¹¹⁷ you, faire F
¹¹⁸ -cies, F ¹¹⁹ elſe, F ¹²¹ vowe F ¹²² *Hippolita* : F ;] ; R ¹²³ goe FR
¹²⁴ employ F ^{-neſſe,} F ¹²⁶ FR6 ſome thing F nerely F ¹²⁷ duty F
duty R, deſire, FR *Manet Lyſander and Hermia*] om. FR ¹²⁸ cheek F
¹²⁹ doe F ¹³⁰ Belike, F ;] : F ; R ¹³¹ my FR ¹³² For] Eigh me : for F
Eigh me ; for R aught F euer I could] I could euer FR ¹³³ here F
-ry FR

The course of true loue neuer did run smooth,
But either it was different in blood. 135

Her. O crosse! too high to be enthral'd to loue.

Lys. Or else misgrafted, in respect of yeares.

Her. O spight! too old to be ingag'd to yong.

Lys. Or else it stood vpon the choise of merit.

Her. O hell! to choose loue by anothers eie. 140

Lys. Or if there were a simparchie in choise,

Warre, death, or sicknesse, did lay siege to it;

Making it momentarie, as a sound:

Swift as a shadow, short as any dreame, [146²]

Briefe as the lightning in the collied night, 145

That (in a spleene) vnfolde both heauen and earth;

And ere a man hath power to say, behold,

The iawes of darknesse, do deuoure it vp:

So quicke bright things come to confusion.

Her. If then true Louers haue beene euer crost, 150

It stands as an edict in destinie:

Then let vs teach our triall patience,

Because it is a custumarie crosse,

As due to loue, as thoughts, and dreames, and fighes,

Wifhes and teares; poore Fancies followers. 155

Lys. A good perswasion; therefore heare me *Hermia*,

I haue a Widdow Aunt, a dowager,

Of great reuennue, and she hath no childe,

From Athens is her house remou'd seuen leagues,

And she respects me, as her onely sonne: 160

There gentle *Hermia*, may I marrie thee,

And to that place, the sharpe Athenian Law

Cannot pursue vs. If thou lou'st me, then

Steale forth thy fathers house to morrow night:

And in the wood, a league without the towne, 165

(Where I did meete thee once with *Helena*,

To do obseruance for a morne of May)

There will I stay for thee.

Her. My good *Lysander*,

¹³⁴ runne smoothe FR ,]: F ¹³⁵ bloud; FR ¹³⁶ intral'd FR ¹³⁷ ,]; FR ¹³⁸ olde FR young F ¹³⁹ else, F stode F choyce F merit.] friends; FR ¹⁴⁰], FR eyes FR ,]: F ¹⁴¹ Or, FR sympathy F simpathy R choyce F ¹⁴² death or F sledge R ¹⁴³ momentany FR ,]; FR ¹⁴⁴ Swift, F shadowe F ,]; FR short, F ,]; FR ¹⁴⁵ Briefe, F lightening R ¹⁴⁷ And, F beholde F ¹⁴⁸ darknesse F ¹⁵⁰ bin FR ¹⁵¹ edict, F -ny FR ¹⁵² patience: F ¹⁵³ -ary FR ¹⁵⁴ dewe F ¹⁵⁵ Wifhes, F ¹⁵⁶ ,]: FR mee, F me, R ,]: FR ¹⁵⁷ widowe F widow R Ant R ¹⁵⁸ reuennue FR childe: F ¹⁵⁹ remou'd] remote, F remote R seauen F ,]: F ¹⁶⁰ respectes mee F only F ¹⁶¹ FR7 There, F marry FR ,]: F ¹⁶³ can not F louest FR mee F ¹⁶⁴ house, FR ¹⁶⁵ towne,] towne FR ¹⁶⁶ ,] om. F ¹⁶⁷ for] to FR

I sweare to thee, by Cupids strongest bow,
 By his best arrow with the golden head, 170
 By the simplicitie of Venus Doues,
 By that which knitteth foules, and prospers loue,
 And by that fire which burn'd the Carthage Queene,
 When the false Trojan vnder faile was seene,
 By all the vowes that euer men haue broke, 175
 (In number more then euer women spoke)
 In that same place thou hast appointed me,
 To morrow truly will I meete with thee.

Lys. Keepe promise loue : looke here comes *Helena*.

Enter Helena.

Her. God speede faire *Helena*, whither away? 180
Hel. Cal you me faire? that faire againe vnfay,
Demetrius loues you faire : O happie faire !
 Your eyes are loadstarres, and your tongues sweet ayre
 More tuneable then Larke to shepheards eare,
 When wheate is greene, when hauthorne buds appeare, 185
 Sicknesse is catching : O were fauor so,
 Your words I catch, faire *Hermia* ere I go,
 My eare should catch your voice, my eye, your eye,
 My tongue should catch your tongues sweet melodie,
 Were the world mine, *Demetrius* being bated, 190
 The rest Ile giue to be to you translated.
 O teach me how you looke, and with what art
 you sway the motion of *Demetrius* hart.
Her. I frowne vpon him, yet he loues me still.
Hel. O that your frownes would teach my smiles 195
 such skil.
Her. I giue him curfes, yet he giues me loue.
Hel. O that my prayers could such affection mooue.
Her. The more I hate, the more he followes me.
Hel. The more I loue, the more he hateth me.
Her. His folly *Helena* is none of mine. 200
Hel. None but your beauty, wold that fault wer mine
Her. Take comfort : he no more shall see my face,
Lysander and my selfe will flie this place.

¹⁶⁹ bowe F ¹⁷⁰ arrowe, F arrow, R heade F ¹⁷¹ -ty R ¹⁷² loues F
¹⁷³ fire, F burnd FR ¹⁷⁴ *Troian* F sayle R ¹⁷⁷ mee F ¹⁷⁸ truly FR
¹⁷⁹ :], R looke, F ¹⁸⁰ ,]: F ¹⁸¹ Call FR mee F ¹⁸² you] your FR
 happy FR ¹⁸³ loadstares R ¹⁸⁴ tuneable F ¹⁸⁵ larke, F
 sheepeheards F ¹⁸⁶ wheat F ¹⁸⁷ buddes F ¹⁸⁸ O, F fauour FR
¹⁸⁹ -*mia*, F ¹⁹⁰ goe FR ¹⁹¹ sweete F ¹⁹² -dy FR ¹⁹³ O, F ¹⁹⁴ mee F
 Art, FR ¹⁹⁵ You FR ¹⁹⁶ heart FR ¹⁹⁷ FR ¹⁹⁸ ,]: F ¹⁹⁹ mee F ²⁰⁰ mee F
²⁰¹ frowns FR ²⁰² wold R ²⁰³ .]om. R skil./FR ²⁰⁴ ,]: F ²⁰⁵ mee F ²⁰⁶ mee F
²⁰⁷ mee F ²⁰⁸ folly, FR ²⁰⁹ *Helena*, F ²¹⁰ none] no fault F ²¹¹ ,]: F ²¹² would F
 were FR ²¹³ mine. FR ²¹⁴ ,]: F ²¹⁵ fly FR

Before the time I did *Lyfander* fee,
 Seem'd Athens like a Paradise to mee. 205
 O then, what graces in my Loue do dwell, [147¹]
 That he hath turn'd a heauen into hell.

Lyf. Helen, to you our mindes we will vnfold,
 To morrow night, when *Phæbe* doth behold
 Her filuer visage, in the watry glasse, 210
 Decking with liquid pearle, the bladed grasse
 (A time that Louers flights doth still conceale)
 Through *Athens* gates, haue we deuised to steale.

Her. And in the wood, where often you and I,
 Vpon faint Primrose beds, were wont to lye, 215
 Emptying our bosomes, of their counsell fweld:
 There my *Lyfander*, and my selfe shall meete,
 And thence from *Athens* turne away our eyes
 To seeke new friends and strange companions,
 Farwell sweet play-fellow, pray thou for vs, 220
 And good lucke grant thee thy *Demetrius*.
 Keepe word *Lyfander* we must starue our sight,
 From louers foode, till morrow deepe midnight.

Exit Hermia.

Lyf. I will my *Hermia*. *Helena* adieu,
 As you on him, *Demetrius* dotes on you. *Exit Lyfander.* 225

Hele. How happy some, ore other some can be?
 Through *Athens* I am thought as faire as she.
 But what of that? *Demetrius* thinkes not so:
 He will not know, what all, but he doth know,
 And as hee erres, doting on *Hermias* eyes; 230
 So I, admiring of his qualities:
 Things bafe and vilde, holding no quantity,
 Loue can transpofe to forme and dignity,
 Loue lookes not with the eyes, but with the minde,
 And therefore is wing'd *Cupid* painted blinde. 235
 Nor hath loues minde of any iudgement taste:
 Wings and no eyes, figure, vnheedy hafte.
 And therefore is Loue said to be a childe,
 Because in choise he is often beguil'd,
 As waggish boyes in game themfelues forfwere; 240

204 *Li*- F 225 like] as F -dice R me R 206 dooe F 207 hee F
 turn'd F into] unto a F .]! F 208 wee F vnfold: F 209 beholde F
 211 -ing, F 212 time, FR 213 wee F deuifed R 216 Pimrose R beddes F
 216 .]! FR 218 thence, from *Athens*, F eyes, F 219 .]! FR 220 Farewell, F
 sweete FR -]om. F .]! F .]! F 221 graunt F 222 -der: F 224 .]! F
 225 dote FR 226 happie F -some, F ?]! F 227 -ens, F thee F
 228 FR*R9 229 knowe FR* hee FR* doe FR* do R know. FR*
 230 he R .]! FR* 231 .]! FR* 232 vile FR*R -tie FR* 233 -tie. FR*
 234 minde: FR* 235 wing'd FR*R 237 Wings, FR*R 238 bee FR*
 .]! FR* 239 Because, in choyce, FR* often] so oft FR* oft R
 beguilde R .]! FR* 240 boyes, in game, FR* .]! FR*

So the boy Loue is periur'd euery where.
 For ere *Demetrius* lookt on *Hermias* eyne,
 He hail'd downe oathes that he was onely mine.
 And when this Haile some heat from *Hermia* felt,
 So he diffolu'd, and showres of oathes did melt, 245
 I will goe tell him of faire *Hermias* flight :
 Then to the wood will he, to morrow night
 Purfue her ; and for his intelligence,
 If I haue thanks, it is a deere expence :
 But heerein meane I to enrich my paine,
 To haue his fight thither, and backe againe. 250
Exit.

*Enter Quince the Carpenter, Snug the Ioyner, Bottome the [I. 2.
 Weaver, Flute the bellows-mender, Snout the Tinker, and
 Starueling the Taylor.*

Quin. Is all our company heere ?

Bot. You were best to call them generally, man by man, according to the scrip.

Qui. Here is the scrowle of euery mans name, which is thought fit through all *Athens*, to play in our Enterlude before the Duke and the Dutches, on his wedding day at night. 5

Bot. First, good *Peter Quince*, say what the play treats on : then read the names of the Actors : and so grow on to a point. 10

Quin. Marry our play is the most lamentable Comedy, and most cruell death of *Pyramus* and *Thisbie*.

Bot. A very good peece of worke I assure you, and a merry. Now good *Peter Quince*, call forth your Actors [147²] by the scrowle. Masters spread your selues. 15

Quince. Answer as I call you. *Nick Bottome* the Weaver.

Bottome. Ready ; name what part I am for, and proceed.

Quince. You *Nicke Bottome* are set downe for *Pyramus*. 20

²⁴¹ So, FR* boy, Loue, FR* ²⁴² For, FR* eyen FR* ²⁴³ Hee FR* hayld FR* haild R othes, FR* ²⁴⁴ this] his R haile, R heate, FR* heate R -mia, FR* ²⁴⁵ -folued FR* shows FR*], FR* ²⁴⁶ go R ²⁴⁷ Then, FR* wood] wodde, FR* night, FR* ²⁴⁸]; FR* his] this FR*R ²⁴⁹ thanks R deare FR*R expenfe FR* ²⁵⁰ herein FR* ²⁵¹ back FR* Quince, F], FR* and Snugge, FR*], FR* and Bottom, FR*], FR* and Flute, FR* Bellows mender FR* -lows R]; FR* & Snout, FR*], FR* -ler FR* ¹ *Quin.* F ³ to] om. R scrippe FR*R ⁵ thoght R fit, FR* al FR* -lude, FR*R ⁶ Duke, FR* ⁷ night, R ⁸], om. FR*R ⁹ *Peeter* FR* ⁹ grow on] grow FR*R ¹¹ FR*R10 Mary, FR* ¹² -ly FR* ¹³ worke, FR*R ¹⁴ *Peeter* FR* foorth R Actors, FR* ¹⁵ Masters, spreade FR* ¹⁶ Answer, FR* Answer R -tom, FR* ¹⁷], FR* ¹⁸ -die : FR* ¹⁹ -ceede FR* ²⁰ You, FR* *Nick* FR*R -tom FR*

Bot. What is *Pyramus*, a louer, or a tyrant?

Quin. A Louer that kills himselfe most gallantly for loue.

Bot. That will aske some teares in the true performing of it: if I do it, let the audience looke to their eies: I will moue stormes; I will condole in some measure. To the rest yet, my chiefe humour is for a tyrant. I could play *Ercles* rarely, or a part to teare a Cat in, to make all split the raging Rocks; and shiuering shocks shall break the locks of prison gates, and *Phibbus* carre shall shine from farre, and make and marre the foolish Fates. This was lofty. Now name the rest of the Players. This is *Ercles* vaine, a tyrants vaine: a louer is more condoling.

Quin. *Francis Flute* the Bellows-mender.

Flu. Heere *Peter Quince*.

Quin. You must take *Thisbie* on you. 45

Flut. What is *Thisbie*, a wandring Knight?

Quin. It is the Lady that *Pyramus* must loue.

Flut. Nay faith, let not mee play a woman, I haue a beard comming.

Qui. That's all one, you shall play it in a Maske, and you may speake as small as you will. 50

Bot. And I may hide my face, let me play *Thisbie* too: Ile speake in a monstrous little voyce; *Thisie*, *Thisie*, ah *Pyramus* my louer deare, thy *Thisbie* deare, and Lady deare.

Quin. No no, you must play *Pyramus*, and *Flute*, you *Thisby*. 55

Bot. Well, proceed.

Qu. *Robin Starueling* the Taylor.

Star. Heere *Peter Quince*.

Quince. *Robin Starueling*, you must play *Thisbies* mother? 60

Tom Snowt, the Tinker.

Snowt. Heere *Peter Quince*.

Quin. You, *Pyramus* father; my self, *Thisbies* father; 65

²²-mus? FR* ²³kils FR*R -selfe, FR* gallant, FR*R ²⁵perfourming R ²⁶]. FR*, R doe FR*R eyes FR*R ²⁷wil FR* moue R]; FR* -dole, FR* ³¹]; FR* ³²shocks, FR* ³³breake FR*R ⁴⁰-tie FR* Now, FR* ⁴³*Flute*, FR* Bellows mender FR*].? FR* ⁴⁴Here *Peeter* FR* ⁴⁵You] *Flute*, you FR* -by, FR* -by R ⁴⁶*Fla.* FR* -by? FR*R ⁴⁷Lady, FR* ⁴⁸]; FR* me FR*R womā: FR* ⁴⁹cō-/ming FR* .]om. R ⁵⁰Thats FR* al R]; FR* shal R]; FR* ⁵²-by to FR*R ⁵³voice FR* ⁵⁴-mus, FR* -by FR*R ⁵⁶No no,] No, no: FR* -mus: FR* ⁵⁷*Thys-* FR* ⁵⁸-ceede FR* ⁵⁹-ling, FR* Tailer FR* Tailor R ⁶⁰Here *Peeter* FR* ⁶¹*Thysbyes* FR* ⁶²]; FR*R ⁶³FR11 *Snowte* F].? F ⁶⁴Here FR ⁶⁵selfe FR

Snugge the Ioyner, you the Lyons part : and I hope there is a play fitted.

Snug. Haue you the Lions part written? pray you if be, giue it me, for I am slow of studie.

Quin. You may doe it *extemporie*, for it is nothing but roaring. 70

Bot. Let mee play the Lyon too, I will roare that I will doe any mans heart good to heare me. I will roare, that I will make the Duke say, Let him roare againe, let him roare againe. 75

Quin. If you should doe it too terribly, you would fright the Dutcheffe and the Ladies, that they would shrike, and that were enough to hang vs all.

All. That would hang vs euery mothers sonne.

Bottom. I graunt you friends, if that you should fright the Ladies out of their Wittes, they would haue no more discretion but to hang vs : but I will aggrauate my voyce so, that I will roare you as gently as any fucking Doue ; I will roare and 'twere any Nightingale. 85

Quin. You can play no part but *Piramus*, for *Piramus* is a sweet-fac'd man, a proper man as one shall see in [148] a summers day ; a most louely Gentleman-like man, therefore you must needs play *Piramus*.

Bot. Well, I will vndertake it. What beard were I beft to play it in? 90

Quin. Why, what you will.

Bot. I will discharge it, in either your straw-colour beard, your orange tawnie beard, your purple in graine beard, or your French-crowne colour'd beard, your perfect yellow. 95

Quin. Some of your French Crownes haue no haire at all, and then you will play bare-fac'd. But masters here are your parts, and I am to intreat you, request you, and desire you, to con them by too morrow night : and meet me in the palace wood, a mile without the Towne, by Moone-light, there we will rehearse : for if we meete in 100

⁶⁶ Snugge, F there] here FR ⁶⁸ Lyons FR you, F if] if it FR ⁶⁹ bee F mee : F slowe FR -dy R ⁷⁰ do R it, F -pore : F -pore, R ⁷² me R to. F roare, FR ⁷³ do R mee F ⁷⁴ say ; F againe : F again, R ⁷⁶ If] And F do FR ⁷⁷ -effe, F ⁷⁸ ,] : F inough F ⁷⁹ vs, F ⁸⁰ grant FR you, F that] om. FR ⁸¹ wits FR ⁸² -tion, F ⁸³ voice F wil F -ly, F ⁸⁴ ,] : F roare] roare you, F roare you R t'were R ⁸⁶ ,] : F ⁸⁷ sweete fac't F sweet fac't R ,] ; F shal R ⁸⁸ sommers FR -]om. FR ,] : F there- FR ⁸⁹ needes F ⁹⁰ ,] : F ⁹² ,] ? F ⁹³ wil F eyther R straw colour F ⁹⁴ -ny R bearde F ⁹⁵ french crowne colour FR perfit FR ⁹⁸ ,] ; FR bare fac't FR maifters F heere R ⁹⁹ entreat R ¹⁰⁰ desire / FR ¹⁰² too] to F meete FR ¹⁰¹ mee F ¹⁰² ,] ; F will wee F wee F

the Citie, we shalbe dog'd with company, and our deu-
 ifes knowne. In the meane time, I wil draw a bil of pro-
 erties, such as our play wants. I pray you faile me not. 105

Bottom. We will meete, and there we may rehearse
 more obcenely and couragiously. Take paines, be per-
 fect, adieu.

Quin. At the Dukes oake we meete.

Bot. Enough, hold or cut bow-strings.

Exeunt 110

Actus Secundus.

*Enter a Fairie at one doore, and Robin good-
 fellow at another.*

Rob. How now spirit, whether wander you?

Fai. Ouer hil, ouer dale, through bush, through briar,
 Ouer parke, ouer pale, through flood, through fire, 5
 I do wander euerie where, swifter then y Moons sphere ;
 And I serue the Fairy Queene, to dew her orbs vpon the
 The Cowslips tall, her pensioners bee, (green. 10
 In their gold coats, spots you see,
 Those be Rubies, Fairie fauors,
 In those freckles, liue their fauors,
 I must go seeke some dew drops heere,
 And hang a pearle in euery cowslips eare. 15
 Farewell thou Lob of spirits, Ile be gon,
 Our Queene and all her Elues come heere anon.

Rob. The King doth keepe his Reuels here to night,
 Take heed the Queene come not within his sight,
 For *Oberon* is pasing fell and wrath, 20
 Because that she, as her attendant, hath
 A louely boy stolne from an Indian King,
 She neuer had so sweet a changeling,
 And ieaious *Oberon* would haue the childe

¹⁰³city F Citty R wee F shal be F shall be R dogd FR
¹⁰⁴known F will FR bill FR ¹⁰⁶Wee F ¹⁰⁷more] most F -ly, F
 cor- F bee F perfit FR ¹⁰⁸,]: F ¹⁰⁹Qnin F oke F wee F ¹¹⁰,]: F
 holde, F -]om. F *Actus Secundus]* om. FR ¶ *Enter F fairy R*
 -]om. F ¹whither F ²hill FR ³thorough bush, thorough F brier FR
⁵thorough flood, thorough fire : F ⁶euery FR ,]: F ⁷than F ,]: F
⁹orbes R greene FR ¹⁰-flippes F ,]om. F be R ¹¹spottes F ,]: F
¹²-bies. Fairy R fauours FR ,]: F ¹³faouours. F ¹⁴goe FR
 droppes F here FR ¹⁵couslippes F ¹⁶Farwell R Lobbe F ,]: F
 gon. F gone, R ¹⁷Queene, F here FR ¹⁸heere R ,]. F ¹⁹heede F
 ,]. F ²⁰,]: F ²²stollen, F stollen R ,]: F ²³twete FR ,]. F
²⁴childe, FR

Knight of his traine, to trace the Forrests wilde. 25
 But she (perforce) with-holds the loued boy,
 Crownes him with flowers, and makes him all her ioy.
 And now they neuer meete in groue, or greene,
 By fountaine cleere, or spangled star-light sheene,
 But they do square, that all their Elues for feare 30
 Creepe into Acorne cups and hide them there.

Fai. Either I mistake your shape and making quite,
 Or else you are that shrew'd and knauish spirit
 Cal'd Robin Good-fellow. Are you not hee,
 That frights the maidens of the Villagree, 35
 Skim milke, and sometimes labour in the querne,
 And bootlesse make the breathlesse hufwife cherne,
 And sometime make the drinke to beare no barme,
 Misleade night-wanderers, laughing at their harme, [148²]
 Those that Hobgoblin call you, and sweet Pucke, 40
 You do their worke, and they shall haue good lucke.
 Are not you he ?

Rob. Thou speake'st aright ;
 I am that merrie wanderer of the night :
 I iest to *Oberon*, and make him smile,
 When I a fat and beane-fed horse beguile, 45
 Neighing in likeness of a filly foale,
 And sometime lurke I in a Gossips bole,
 In very likeness of a roasted crab :
 And when she drinks, against her lips I bob,
 And on her withered dewlop poure the Ale. 50
 The wisest Aunt telling the saddest tale,
 Sometime for three-foot stoole, mistaketh me,
 Then slip I from her bum, downe topples she,
 And tailour cries, and fals into a coffe.
 And then the whole quire hold their hips, and losse, 55
 And waxen in their mirth, and neeze, and sweare,
 A merrier houre vvas neuer wasted there.
 But roome Fairy, heere comes *Oberon*.

Fair. And heere my Mistris :
 Would that he vvere gone.

²⁶ shee, perforce, F she, perforce R withholds F ²⁸ FR13 now, F
²⁹ cleare F -*jom.* FR ³⁰ doe F Elues, for feare, F ³¹ cups, FR
³² shape, and making, F ³³ els F shrewde F shrewd R sprite, F spirit, R
³⁴ Call'd FR -*jom.* F you not] not you F ³⁵ Villageree F ³⁶ Misleade F
 Mis-leade R -*jom.* F harme? F ⁴⁰ Those, F sweete Puck FR ⁴¹ doe F
 luck F ⁴² hee F speake'st F aright; I — night./FR ⁴³ -ry F :]. F, R
⁴⁴ ieast FR ⁴⁵ ;]; FR ⁴⁶ Neyghing, F filly fole F ⁴⁷ gossippes F
⁴⁸ roasted FR crabbe F :], FR ⁵⁰ dewlop, F ⁵¹ Aunt, F ⁵² Sometime, F
 three foote, FR mee : F ⁵³ flippe F bumme F ⁵⁴ cryes FR falles F :]; F
⁵⁵ hould F hippe F ⁵⁶ myrth F sweare,] sweare F ⁵⁷ hower F ⁵⁸ Faery : F
 here FR ⁵⁹ here, F here R mistresse FR :]. F gon./F gone./R

*Enter the King of Fairies at one doore with his traine,
and the Queene at another with hers.*

Ob. Ill met by Moone-light,
Proud *Tytania*. 60

Qu. What, ieaious *Oberon*? Fairy skip hence.
I haue forsworne his bed and companie.

Ob. Tarrie rash Wanton; am not I thy Lord?

Qu. Then I must be thy Lady: but I know
When thou vvaft stolne away from Fairy Land, 65

And in the shape of *Corin*, late all day,

Playing on pipes of Corne, and versing loue

To amorous *Phillida*. Why art thou heere

Come from the farthest steepe of *India*?

But that forsooth the bouncing *Amazon* 70

Your buskin'd Mistresse, and your Warrior loue,

To *Thefeus* must be Wedded; and you come,

To giue their bed ioy and prosperitie.

Ob. How canst thou thus for shame *Tytania*,
Glance at my credite, vvith *Hippolita*? 75

Knowing I knowv thy loue to *Thefeus*?

Didst thou not leade him through the glimmering night

From *Peregenia*, whom he rauished?

And make him vvith faire Eagles breake his faith

With *Ariadne*, and *Atiopa*? 80

Que. These are the forgeries of ieaousie,

And neuer since the middle Summers spring

Met vve on hil, in dale, forrest, or mead,

By pauer fountaine, or by rushie brooke,

Or in the beached margent of the sea, 85

To dance our ringlets to the whistling Winde,

But vvith thy braules thou hast disturb'd our sport.

Therefore the Windes, piping to vs in vaine,

As in reuenge, haue suck'd vp from the sea

Contagious fogges: Which falling in the Land, 90

Hath euerie petty Riuer made so proud,

That they haue ouer-borne their Continents.

Fairies, F doore, F traine; F Queene, at another, F ⁶⁰ -]om. F
-nia./FR ⁶¹ FR14 skippe F ⁶² bedde, F -ny FR ⁶³ Tarry, F Tarry R
;]. F ⁶⁴ tby R ⁶⁵ haft stollen FR ⁶⁶ fat FR ⁶⁷ loue, FR ⁶⁸ here FR
⁶⁹ steppe F ⁷⁰ that, forsooth, the bouncing *Amason*, F -zon, R
⁷¹ buskind FR ⁷² warrior F ⁷³ bedde, F -ty R ⁷⁴ thus, F shame, FR
⁷⁵ Glaunce F credit F ⁷⁶ -ing, F ?]. FR ⁷⁷ thou not] not thou FR
lead F night, FR ⁷⁸ *Perig-* FR ⁷⁹ him, F Eagles, F ⁸⁰ *Antiope* FR
⁸¹ .]; F ⁸² neuer, F Sommers spring, FR ⁸³ hill FR ⁸⁴ forrest or R
meade F ⁸⁵ rushy R ⁸⁶ daunce F ⁸⁷ brawles FR ⁸⁸ disturbd FR ⁸⁹ pyp- FR
⁹⁰ suckt FR ⁹¹ vp, F Sea, FR ⁹² fogs; R which, F ⁹³ euery pelting FR
proude F ⁹⁴ -]om. F

The Oxe hath therefore stretch'd his yoake in vaine,
 The Ploughman lost his sweate, and the greene Corne
 Hath rotted, ere his youth attain'd a beard : 95
 The fold stands empty in the drowned field,
 And Crows are fatted vvith the murrion flocke,
 The nine mens Morris is filld vp with mud, [149¹]
 And the quaint Mazes in the wanton greene,
 For lacke of tread are vndistinguisable. 100
 The humane mortals want their winter heere,
 No night is now with hymne or caroll blest ;
 Therefore the Moone (the gouerneffe of floods)
 Pale in her anger, washes all the aire ;
 That Rheumaticke diseases doe abound. 105
 And through this distemperature, we see
 The seasons alter ; hoared headed frosts
 Fall in the fresh lap of the crimson Rose,
 And on old *Hyems* chinne and Icie crowne,
 An odorous Chaplet of sweet Sommer buds 110
 Is as in mockry set. The Spring, the Sommer,
 The childing Autumne, angry Winter change
 Their wonted Liuries, and the mazed world,
 By their increafe, now knowes not which is which ;
 And this same progeny of euills, 115
 Comes from our debate, from our diffention,
 We are their parents and originall.

Ober. Do you amend it then, it lies in you,
 Why should *Titania* crosse her *Oberon* ?
 I do but beg a little changeling boy, 120
 To be my Henchman.

Qu. Set your heart at rest,
 The Fairy land buyes not the childe of me,
 His mother was a Votresse of my Order,
 And in the spiced *Indian* aire, by night
 Full often hath she gossip't by my side, 125
 And sat with me on *Neptunes* yellow sands,
 Marking th'embarked traders on the flood,
 When we haue laught to see the failes conceiue,
 And grow big bellied with the wanton winde :
 Which she with pretty and with swimming gate, 130

⁹³ stretcht FR yoke R ⁹⁵ attainde F attained R bearde F ⁹⁶ FR15
 empty, FR ⁹⁷ J. F ⁹⁸ mudde: F ⁹⁹ Mazes, F ¹⁰⁰ tread, FR ¹⁰¹ J. F
¹⁰² hymne R carroll FR ; J. F ¹⁰⁵ do R ¹⁰⁶ And, thorough F wee F
¹⁰⁷ ; J. F hoary F ¹⁰⁸ lappe F Crymfon F ¹⁰⁹ Icy F ¹¹⁰ sweete FR
 buddes F ¹¹¹ Is, F mockery, F mockery R ¹¹³ ; J. F worlde F ¹¹⁴ ; J. F
¹¹⁵ euils FR ¹¹⁶ -tion: F ¹¹⁸ Doe F ; J. F lyes FR ; J. F ¹²⁰ doe F
 begge F ¹²¹ J. F ¹²² Faery F buies FR mee F ¹²³ ; J. F ¹²⁴ ayer F
 night, F ¹²⁵ gossip't, F ¹²⁶ fat, F ; J. F ¹²⁷ ; J. F ¹²⁸ conceaue F
¹²⁹ bigge bellied, F ; J. R ¹³⁰ FR16 she, with prettie, F

Following (her wombe then rich with my yong squire)
 Would imitate, and faile vpon the Land,
 To fetch me trifles, and returne againe,
 As from a voyage, rich with merchandize.
 But she being mortall, of that boy did die, 135
 And for her sake I doe reare vp her boy,
 And for her sake I will not part with him.

Ob. How long within this wood intend you stay?

Qu. Perchance till after *Thefeus* wedding day.
 If you will patiently dance in our Round, 140
 And see our Moone-light reuels, goe with vs;
 If not, shun me and I will spare your haunts.

Ob. Giue me that boy, and I will goe with thee.

Qu. Not for thy Fairy Kingdome. Fairies away:
 We shall chide downe right, if I longer stay. *Exeunt.* 145

Ob. Wel, go thy way: thou shalt not from this groue,
 Till I torment thee for this iniury.
 My gentle *Pucke* come hither; thou remembreth
 Since once I sat vpon a promontory,
 And heard a Meare-maide on a Dolphins backe, 150
 Vttering such dulcet and harmonious breath,
 That the rude sea grew ciuill at her song,
 And certaine starres shot madly from their Spheares,
 To heare the Sea-maids musicke.

Puc. I remember.

Ob. That very time I say (but thou couldst not) 155
 Flying betweene the cold Moone and the earth,
Cupid all arm'd; a certaine aime he tooke
 At a faire Vestall, throned by the West,
 And loos'd his loue-shaft smartly from his bow,
 As it should pierce a hundred thousand hearts, 160
 But I might see young *Cupids* fiery shaft
 Quencht in the chaste beames of the watry Moone; [149²]
 And the imperiall Votresse passed on,
 In maiden meditation, fancy free.

Yet markt I where the bolt of *Cupid* fell. 165
 It fell vpon a little westerne flower;
 Before, milke-white; now purple with lous wound,
 And maidens call it, Loue in idleneffe.

¹⁸¹ young FR ¹⁸⁴ marchandise F ¹⁸⁵ she, F dye FR ¹⁸⁶ And, F fake,
 doe I F fake do I R ;] F ¹⁸⁷ And, F fake, F ¹⁸⁸ long, F wood, en-
 tend F ¹⁸⁹ Perchaunce, F ¹⁹⁰ daunce F ¹⁹¹ -]om. F Reuelles F go R
 ;] F ¹⁹² shunne me, F ¹⁹³ mee F go R ¹⁹⁴ Fairie R ;] F ¹⁹⁵ downe-
 right F ¹⁹⁶ Well FR ;] F goe F ;] F ¹⁹⁷ thee, F ¹⁹⁸ ;] F -brest, F
¹⁹⁹ Mearemaide, F ²⁰⁰ herm. F ²⁰¹ grewe F ²⁰² certaine F ²⁰³ time, I
 saw F could't F ²⁰⁴ colde FR ²⁰⁵ *Cupid*, F ;] F ²⁰⁶ the]om. FR
²⁰⁷ smartly, F bowe F ²⁰⁸ pearce F ;] F ²⁰⁹ But, F ²¹⁰ chaft F ;] F
²¹¹ FR17 ²¹² I, F fel R ²¹³ milke white F purple, F

Fetch me that flower ; the hearb I shew'd thee once,
 The iuyce of it, on sleepeing eye-lids laid, 170
 Will make or man or woman madly dote
 Vpon the next liue creature that it fees.
 Fetch me this hearbe, and be thou heere againe,
 Ere the *Leuiathan* can swim a league.

Pucke. Ile put a girdle about the earth, in forty mi- 175
 nutes.

Ober. Hauing once this iuyce,
 Ile watch *Titania*, when she is asleepe,
 And drop the liquor of it in her eyes :
 The next thing when she waking lookes vpon,
 (Be it on Lyon, Beare, or Wolfe, or Bull, 180
 On medling Monkey, or on busie Ape)
 Shee shall pursue it, with the foule of loue.
 And ere I take this charme off from her sight,
 (As I can take it with another hearbe)
 Ile make her render vp her Page to me. 185
 But who comes heere ? I am inuifible,
 And I will ouer-heare their conference.

Enter Demetrius, Helena following him.

Deme. I loue thee not, therefore pursue me not,
 Where is *Lyfander*, and faire *Hermia* ?
 The one Ile stay, the other stayeth me. 190
 Thou toldst me they were stolne into this wood ;
 And heere am I, and wood within this wood,
 Because I cannot meet my *Hermia*.
 Hence, get thee gone, and follow me no more.

Hel. You draw me, you hard-hearted Adamant, 195
 But yet you draw not Iron, for my heart
 Is true as Steele. Leauē you your power to draw,
 And I shall haue no power to follow you.

Deme. Do I entice you ? do I speake you faire ?
 Or rather doe I not in plainest truth, 200
 Tell you I doe not, nor I cannot loue you ?

Hel. And euen for that doe I loue thee the more ;

¹⁶⁹ mee F flowre : F herbe F shewed F ,J. F ¹⁷⁰ iewce F eyeliddes F
 laide FR ¹⁷¹ dote, F ¹⁷³ mee F herbe F here FR ,Jom. F ¹⁷⁴ swimme F
¹⁷⁵ girdle, roūd about F ¹⁷⁶ iuice F ¹⁷⁷ when] whence R a sleepe F
¹⁷⁸ droppe F it, F ¹⁷⁹ when] then F she, waking, F ,Jom. F ¹⁸¹ Monky F
¹⁸² She FR ¹⁸³ charme, from of F ,Jom. F ¹⁸⁴ herbe F ¹⁸⁵ Page, F
 mee F ¹⁸⁶ But, F here F ¹⁸⁷ -Jom. F ¹⁸⁸ not : there- F not. F
¹⁸⁹ ,Jom. R ¹⁹⁰ ,J. F ¹⁹¹ me, F into] vnto FR ,J. F ¹⁹² here FR
 wodde, within this wood : F ¹⁹³ meete FR ¹⁹⁴ thee] the F mee F
¹⁹⁵ mee F hard hearted F ,J. F ¹⁹⁶ ,J. F ¹⁹⁸ FR ¹⁹⁸ Doe I entife F
 Doe F ²⁰⁰ do R truthe F ²⁰¹ do R nor] not FR ²⁰² euen, for that, F
 do FR thee] you, F ,J. F

I am your spaniell, and *Demetrius*,
The more you beat me, I will fawne on you.
Vfe me but as your spaniell ; spurne me, strike me, 205
Neglect me, lose me ; onely giue me leaue
(Vnworthy as I am) to follow you.
What worser place can I beg in your loue,
(And yet a place of high respect with me)
Then to be vsed as you doe your dogge. 210

Dem. Tempt not too much the hatred of my spirit,
For I am sicke when I do looke on thee.

Hel. And I am sicke when I looke not on you.

Dem. You doe impeach your modesty too much,
To leaue the Citty, and commit your selfe 215
Into the hands of one that loues you not,
To trust the opportunity of night,
And the ill counsell of a desert place,
With the rich worth of your virginity.

Hel. Your vertue is my priuiledge : for that 220
It is not night when I doe see your face.
Therefore I thinke I am not in the night,
Nor doth this wood lacke worlds of company,
For you in my respect are nll the world. [150¹]

Then how can it be said I am alone, 225
When all the world is heere to looke on me ?

Dem. Ile run from thee, and hide me in the brakes,
And leaue thee to the mercy of wilde beasts.

Hel. The wildest hath not such a heart as you ;
Runne when you will, the story shall be chang'd : 230
Apollo flies, and *Daphne* holds the chase ;
The Doue pursues the Griffin, the milde Hinde
Makes speed to catch the Tyger. Bootlesse speede,
When cowardise pursues, and valour flies.

Demet. I will not stay thy questions, let me go ; 235
Or if thou follow me, doe not beleuee,
But I shall doe thee mischief in the wood.

Hel. I, in the Temple, in the Towne, and Field
You doe me mischief. Fye *Demetrius*,

203 -ell : and, F 204 beate R mee F 205 ;]: F strike mee, F 206 mee,
loofe me : F leave R 207 -thie F 208 begge, F ,]om. F 209 yet, F
mee F 210 doe]vfe FR dog R 211 not, too much, F ,]. F 212 fick, F
213 fick, F 214 do R -tie F 215 citie F felfe, F 217 -tie F 219 -tie F
221 night, F do R 222 Therefore, I thinke, F 223 ,]. F 224 you, F
respect, F nll]all FR 225 Then, F faide, F 226 here, F here R mee F
227 runne F 228 beastes F 229 ;]. F 230 ,]: F chaung'd FR 231 flies R
,]om. F *Daphna* R ;]: F 232 -fon : F -fen, R 233 FR 19 fpeede F
Tigre F Tygre R Bootel- F 234 valor flies R 235 ,]. F goe : F 236 fol-
lowe mee F do FR 237 do R -chiefe, F 238 and] the F felde, F
239 do R Fy F ,]. F

Your wrongs doe fet a scandall on my sexe : 240
 We cannot fight for loue, as men may doe ;
 We should be woo'd, and were not made to wooe.
 I follow thee, and make a heauen of hell,
 To die vpon the hand I loue so well. *Exit.*
Ob. Fare thee well Nymph, ere he do leaue this groue, 245
 Thou shalt flie him, and he shall seeke thy loue.
 Haft thou the flower there? Welcome wanderer.

Enter Pucke.

Puck. I, there it is.
Ob. I pray thee giue it me.
 I know a banke where the wilde time blowes,
 Where Oxflips and the nodding Violet growes, 250
 Quite ouer-cannoped with luscious woodbine,
 With sweet muske rofes, and with Eglantine ;
 There sleepes *Tytania*, sometime of the night,
 Lul'd in these flowers, with dances and delight :
 And there the snake throwes her enammel'd skinne, 255
 Weed wide enough to rap a Fairy in.
 And with the iuyce of this Ile streake her eyes,
 And make her full of hatefull fantasies.
 Take thou some of it, and seek through this groue ;
 A sweet *Athenian* Lady is in loue 260
 With a disdainefull youth : annoint his eyes,
 But doe it when the next thing he espies,
 May be the Lady. Thou shalt know the man,
 By the *Athenian* garments he hath on.
 Effect it with some care, that he may proue 265
 More fond on her, then she vpon her loue ;
 And looke thou meet me ere the first Cocke crow.
Pu. Feare not my Lord, your seruant shall do so. *Exit.*

Enter Queene of Fairies, with her traine. [II. 2.]

Queen. Come, now a Roundell, and a Fairy song ;
 Then for the third part of a minute hence,
 Some to kill Cankers in the muske rose buds,
 Some warre with Reremise, for their leathern wings,
 To make my small Elues coates, and some keepe backe 5
 The clamorous Owle that nightly hoots and wonders

240 do R sex FR 241 do R ;]: F 243 I] Ile FR thee and FR 244 dy F
 dye R *Exit*] om. F 245 Nymph. F 246 fly F flye R 248 mee F 250 Ox-
 lips, F 251 ouercanopi'd F ouercanoped R luscious FR 252 fweete FR
 ;]: F 254 Lul'd FR daunces F 255 -meld FR 256 rap] wrappe F
 257 And, F this, FR 258 phan- F 259 seeke FR ;]: F 260 fweete FR
 loue, F 261 j. F 262 do R it, F 263 Ladie F 265 ;]: F prooue FR
 266 FR20 ;]: F 267 meete FR crowe F 268, j]: F *Exeunt* FR
Queene] *Tytania Queene* F 1;]: F 2 Then, F 3 musk F 4 lethren F
 6 Owle, FR hootes FR

At our quaint fpirits : Sing me now afleepe,
Then to your offices, and let me reft.

Fairies Sing.

*You spotted Snakes with double tongue,
Thorny Hedgehogges be not feene,* 10
*Newts and blinde wormes do no wrong,
Come not neere our Fairy Queene.*

*Philomele with melodie,
Sing in your fweet Lullaby,* [150^a]
Lulla, lulla, luliaby, lulla, lulla, lullaby, 15
*Neuer harme, nor ſpell, nor charme,
Come our louely Lady nye,
So good night with Lullaby.*

2. Fairy. Weauing Spiders come not heere, 20
Hence you long leg'd Spinners, hence :
Beetles blacke approach not neere ;
Worme nor Snayle doe no offence.

Philomele with melody, &c.
1. Fairy. Hence away, now all is well ; 25
One aloofe, ſtand Centinell. *Shee ſleepes.*

Enter Oberon.

Ober. What thou feeſt when thou doſt wake,
Doe it for thy true Loue take :
Loue and languish for his ſake.
Be it Ounce, or Catte, or Beare, 30
Pard, or Boare with briſtled haire,
In thy eye that ſhall appeare,
When thou wak'ſt, it is thy deare,
Wake when ſome vile thing is neere.

Enter Liſander and Hermia.

Lif. Faire loue, you faint with wandring in y woods, 35
And to ſpeake troth I haue forgot our way :
Wee'll reſt vs *Hermia*, if you thinke it good,
And tarry for the comfort of the day.

Ber. Be it ſo *Lyſander* ; finde you out a bed,
For I vpon this banke will reſt my head. 40

Lyf. One turfe ſhall ſerue as pillow for vs both,
One heart, one bed, two boſomes, and one troth.

⁷ a ſleepe : F ⁸ mee F ⁹ Snakes, F ¹¹ blindewormes F ¹³ om. R
¹³ -mele, F ¹⁴ -dy FR ¹⁴ your] our FR ¹⁵ ſweete F ¹⁶ ſweett R ¹⁷ nigh F
J. FR ¹⁸ night, F ²⁰ 2.] 1. FR ²¹ legd FR ²² Spindlers R
²² approach R ²³ J:] F ²³ [naile F ²⁴ do R ²⁵ 1.] 2. FR ²⁶ J:] F ²⁷ J:] F
²⁶ *Shee ſleepes*] om. FR ²⁷ feeſt, F ²⁸ doeſt F ²⁸ Do R ²⁹ thy] thy R
³¹ FR ³¹ 21 ³³ J:] F ³⁴ Wake, F ³⁵ Lys- FR ³⁶ -der : F ³⁷ fainte, F ³⁸ wood : F
³⁶ J:] F ³⁷ Weele F ³⁸ Wee'l R ³⁹ comfor F ⁴⁰ Be] Bet F ⁴¹ J:] F
bedde : F ⁴⁰ I, F ⁴¹ banke, F ⁴² turffe R ⁴³ ſerue, as pillow, F ⁴⁴ bedde F

Her. Nay good *Lyfander*, for my sake my deere
Lie further off yet, doe not lie so neere.

Lyf. O take the fence sweet, of my innocence, 45
Loue takes the meaning, in loues conference,
I meane that my heart vnto yours is knit,
So that but one heart can you make of it.
Two bosomes interchanged with an oath,
So then two bosomes, and a single troth. 50
Then by your side, no bed-roome me deny,
For lying so, *Hermia*, I doe not lye.

Her. *Lyfander* riddles very prettily ;
Now much beshrew my manners and my pride,
If *Hermia* meant to say, *Lyfander* lied. 55
But gentle friend, for loue and courtesie
Lie further off, in humane modesty,
Such separation, as may well be said,
Becomes a vertuous batchelour, and a maide,
So farre be distant, and good night sweet friend ; 60
Thy loue nere alter, till thy sweet life end.

Lyf. Amen, amen, to that faire prayer, say I,
And then end life, when I end loyalty :
Heere is my bed, sleepe giue thee all his rest.

Her. With halfe that wish, the withers eyes be prest. 65

Enter Pucke.

They sleepe.

Puck. Through the Forrest haue I gone,
But *Athenian* finde I none,
One whose eyes I might approue
This flowers force in stirring loue.
Night and silence : who is heere ? 70
Weedes of *Athens* he doth weare :
This is he (my master said)
Despised the *Athenian* maide :
And heere the maiden sleeping found,
On the danke and durty ground. 75 [151¹]
Pretty foule, she durst not lye
Neere this lacke-loue, this kill-curtesie.
Churle, vpon thy eyes I throw

⁴³ good] god F .,]: F sake, F deare R ⁴⁴ Ly F off, yet ; F do R
lye F ⁴⁵ fence, F sweete FR -cence. F ⁴⁶ -rence. F is] it F .,]: F
⁴⁸ can you] wee can F we can R .,]: F ⁴⁹ interchained FR .,]: F
⁵¹ Then, F deny : F ⁵² do R ⁵³ .,]: F ⁵⁴ beshrewe F -ners, F ⁵⁵ lyed F
⁵⁶ curtesie, F ⁵⁷ Ly F .,]: F ⁵⁸ said,] said F ⁵⁹ -eler F -ellor R
⁶⁰ sweete F .,]: F ⁶¹ .,]om. FR sweete FR ende R ⁶² prairer R
⁶³ loialty R .,]: F ⁶⁴ .,]: F ⁶⁵ FR22 *They sleepe.*]om. FR ⁶⁶ .,]: F
⁶⁷ finde] found F ⁶⁸ One] On FR eies R ⁷⁰ .,]: F ⁷² hee F faide F
⁷⁴ here F -en, F ⁷⁵ dirty FR ⁷⁶ fowle F lye, F ⁷⁷ lack-loue F lack loue R
kil-curtesie F ⁷⁸ throwe F

All the power this charme doth owe :
 When thou wak'ft, let loue forbid 80
 Sleepe his feate on thy eye-lid.
 So awake when I am gone :
 For I muft now to *Oberon*. *Exit.*

Enter Demetrius and Helena running.

Hel. Stay, though thou kill me, sweete *Demetrius*.
De. I charge thee hence, and do not haunt me thus. 85
Hel. O wilt thou darkling leaue me ? do not fo.
De. Stay on thy perill, I alone will goe.

Exit Demetrius.

Hel. O I am out of breath, in this fond chace,
 The more my prayer, the leffer is my grace,
 Happy is *Hermia*, wherefoere ſhe lies ; 90
 For ſhe hath bleſſed and attraſtiue eyes.
 How came her eyes ſo bright ? Not with ſalt teares.
 If ſo, my eyes are oftner waſht then hers.
 No, no, I am as vgly as a Beare ;
 For beaſts that meete me, runne away for feare, 95
 Therefore no maruaile, though *Demetrius*
 Doe as a monſter, flie my preſence thus.
 What wicked and diſſembling glaſſe of mine,
 Made me compare with *Hermias* ſphery eyne ?
 But who is here ? *Lyſander* on the ground ; 100
 Deade or aſleepe ? I ſee no blood, no wound,
Lyſander, if you liue, good ſir awake.

Lyf. And run through fire I will for thy ſweet ſake.
 Transparent *Helena*, nature her ſhewes art,
 That through thy boſome makes me ſee thy heart. 105
 Where is *Demetrius* ? oh how fit a word
 Is that vile name, to periſh on my ſword !

Hel. Do not ſay ſo *Lyſander*, ſay not ſo :
 What though he loue your *Hermia* ? Lord, what though ?
 Yet *Hermia* ſtill loues you ; then be content. 110

Lyf. Content with *Hermia* ? No, I do repent
 The tedious minutes I with her haue ſpent.
 Not *Hermia*, but *Helena* now I loue ;

⁸⁰ forbidde F ⁸¹ Sleepe, F feat, F feate, R eye lidde F ⁸² awake, F
 gon F ⁸⁴ ; F mee F ⁸⁵ doe F mee F ⁸⁶ O, F doe F ⁸⁷ Stay, F
 ; F *Exit Demetrius.* om. FR ⁸⁸ O, F chafe FR ⁸⁹ praier R grace. FR
⁹⁰ -pie F ; F ⁹¹ -ed, F ⁹² eies R ⁹⁴ no : I F ; F ⁹⁵ beaſtes F
 mee F away, F . F ⁹⁶ -fore, F ⁹⁷ Doe, F Do R fly F -ence, F
⁹⁸ FR23 glaſſe, F ⁹⁹ eyen ! F ¹⁰⁰ But, F ? , R -der, F ground R
 ; F FR ¹⁰¹ Dead, F Dead R a ſleepe F blood, FR . F ¹⁰² runne F
 fire, F . ſweete F ¹⁰⁴ -rant R her om. FR arte FR ¹⁰⁵ boſome, F
¹⁰⁷ worde F ¹⁰⁸ ſo, F ſo. F ¹¹⁰ ; F ¹¹¹ No : I doe F ¹¹² minutes, F
¹¹³ now om. F ; F .

Who will not change a Rauen for a Doue ?
 The will of man is by his reason sway'd : 115
 And reason saies you are the worthier Maide.
 Things growing are not ripe vntill their season ;
 So I being yong, till now ripe not to reason,
 And touching now the point of humane skill,
 Reason becomes the Marshall to my will, 120
 And leades me to your eyes, where I orelooke
 Loues stories, written in Loues richest booke.

Hel. Wherefore was I to this keene mockery borne ?
 When at your hands did I deferue this scorn ?
 Ist not enough, ist not enough, yong man, 125
 That I did neuer, no nor neuer can,
 Deferue a sweete looke from *Demetrius* eye,
 But you must flout my insufficiency ?
 Good troth you do me wrong (good-footh you do)
 In such disdainfull manner, me to wooe. 130
 But fare you well ; perforce I must confesse,
 I thought you Lord of more true gentleness.
 Oh, that a Lady of one man refus'd,
 Should of another therefore be abus'd. *Exit.*

Lyf. She fees not *Hermia* : *Hermia* sleepe thou there, 135
 And neuer maist thou come *Lyfander* neere ;
 For as a forfeit of the sweetest things [151²]
 The deepest loathing to the stomacke brings :
 Or as the heresies that men do leaue,
 Are hated most of those that did deceiue : 140
 So thou, my forfeit, and my heresie,
 Of all be hated ; but the most of me ;
 And all my powers addresse your loue and might,
 To honour *Helen*, and to be her Knight. *Exit.*

Her. Helpe me *Lyfander*, helpe me ; do thy best 145
 To plucke this crawling serpent from my brest.
 Aye me, for pittie ; what a dreame was here ?
Lyfander looke, how I do quake with feare :
 Me-thought a serpent eate my heart away,
 And yet sat smiling at his cruell prey. 150
Lyfander, what remou'd ? *Lyfander*, Lord,

115 swai'd FR 116 maid R 117 ripe, F ;]: F 118 I, F young FR
 119 now, F 121 leads FR mee F ;]: F 124 When, F hands, F
 125 young FR 128 -cency R 129 doe mee F good footh F doe F
 130 mee F 131 But, F ;]: F perforce, F 133 FR24 O F Ladie, F
 134 Should, of another, F .:] F 135 .:] F -mia, FR 136 .:] F 137 For, F
 138 -ing, F brings F ;]: R 139 Or, F -fies, F doe F
 140 that] they FR 141 surfet FR 142 bee F most, of mee : F 145 mee F
 mee : F 146 pluck F -pent, F 147 Ay mee F -tie. F 148 doe F .:] F
 149 Me thought F 150 yet] you FR fate F pray F 151,]om. F what,
 remou'd F

What, out of hearing, gone? No found, no word?

Alacke where are you? speake and if you heare:

Speake of all loues; I found almost with feare.

No, then I well perceiue you are not nye,

Either death or you Ile finde immediately.

155
Exit.

Actus Tertius.

Enter the Clownes.

Bot. Are we all met?

Quin. Pat, pat, and here's a maruailous conuenient place for our rehearfall. This greene plot shall be our stage, this hauthorne brake our tyring house, and we will do it in action, as we will do it before the Duke.

5

Bot. Peter quince?

Peter. What faist thou, bully *Bottom*?

Bot. There are things in this Comedy of *Piramus* and *Thisby*, that will neuer please. Firft, *Piramus* must draw a sword to kill himfelfe; which the Ladies cannot abide. How answere you that?

10

Snout. Berlaken, a parlous feare.

Star. I beleeeue we must leaue the killing out, when all is done.

Bot. Not a whit, I haue a deuice to make all well. Write me a Prologue, and let the Prologue seeme to say, we will do no harme with our swords, and that *Pyramus* is not kill'd indeede: and for the more better assurance, tell them, that I *Piramus* am not *Piramus*, but *Bottom* the Weauer; this will put them out of feare.

20

Quin. Well, we will haue such a Prologue, and it shall be written in eight and fixe.

Bot. No, make it two more, let it be written in eight and eight.

Snout. Will not the Ladies be afear'd of the Lyon?

25

Star. I feare it, I promise you.

152 gon F 153 Speake, F. :]; FR 154 Speake, F. :]; F ; R found] swoune F swound R 155 perceiue, F ny: F 156 Eyther R death, or you, F *Actus Tertius.*] om. FR 1 wee F 2 Pat, pat: F heres FR maruailles F 3 place, F 4 wee F 5 doe FR wee F doe F 6 Peeter F 7 faist F bully, *Bottom* F 8 edy, F *Pyr.* F 9 *Pyr.* F 10 fworde, F Ladies R 11 FR 25 answer R 12 kin F 13 beleeeue, F ling, F 15 :]; F deuife F 16 fay: F 17 wee R wil F harme, F 18 kild FR indeed R 19 tel F ,] om. R *Pyr.* F *Pyr.* F tom F 20 :]; F 21 Well: wee F 22 fix F 23 ,]; F ,]; F 25 afear'd FR

Bot. Masters, you ought to confider with your felues, to bring in (God shield vs) a Lyon among Ladies, is a most dreadfull thing. For there is not a more fearefull wilde foule then your Lyon liuing: and wee ought to looke 30 to it.

Snout. Therefore another Prologue must tell he is not a Lyon.

Bot. Nay, you must name his name, and halfe his face must be seene through the Lyons necke, and he himselve must speake through, saying thus, or to the same defect; Ladies, or faire Ladies, I would wish you, or I would request you, or I would entreat you, not to feare, not to [152¹] tremble: my life for yours. If you thinke I come hither as a Lyon, it were pittie of my life. No, I am no such 40 thing, I am a man as other men are; and there indeed let him name his name, and tell him plainly hee is *Snug* the ioyner.

Quin. Well, it shall be so; but there is two hard things, that is, to bring the Moone-light into a chamber: for you know, *Piramus* and *Thisby* meete by Moone-light. 45

Sn. Doth the Moone shine that night wee play our play?

Bot. A Calender, a Calender, looke in the Almanack, 50 finde out Moone-shine, finde out Moone-shine.

Enter Pucke.

Quin. Yes, it doth shine that night.

Bot. Why then may you leaue a casement of the great chamber window (where we play) open, and the Moone may shine in at the casement. 55

Quin. I, or else one must come in with a bush of thorns and a lanthorne, and say he comes to disfigure, or to present the person of Moone-shine. Then there is another thing, we must haue a wall in the great Chamber; for *Piramus* and *Thisby* (saies the story) did talke through the 60 chinke of a wall.

Sn. You can neuer bring in a wall. What say you *Bottom*?

²⁷ selfe FR ²⁸ shilde F ³⁷ fowle R we FR ³¹ toote. F ³² Therefore, F
tel, F ³³ Lion F ³⁴ Nay: F ³⁵ Lions F hee R ³⁶ deffect R ³⁸ wold
intreat F ³⁹ hether R ⁴⁰ tie F No: F ⁴¹ ,; F ;]: F indeed, F
⁴² tell him] tell them FR plainly F he FR *Snugge*, F ⁴⁴ ,; F ;]: F
⁴⁵ things: F ⁴⁶ *Pyr*- F ⁴⁸ shine, that night, F we FR ⁵¹ FR26 -der:
looke F -ack: F ⁵¹ Moone-shine. R *Enter Pucke.* om. FR ⁵² Yes: F
⁵³ *Bot.*] *Cet.* F then, F ⁵⁴ ,; F ⁵⁵ I: or els, F in, F thorns, FR
⁵⁷ lättern F ⁵⁸ Then, F ⁵⁹ ,; F wal F ;]: F *Pyr*- F ⁶² wal F
⁶³ -tom F

Bot. Some man or other must present wall, and let him haue some Plaster, or some Lome, or some rough cast about him, to signifie wall; or let him hold his fingers thus; and through that cranny, shall *Piramus* and *Thisby* whisper. 65

Quin. If that may be, then all is well. Come, sit downe euery mothers sonne, and rehearse your parts. *Piramus*, you begin; when you haue spoken your speech, enter into that Brake, and so euery one according to his cue. 70

Enter Robin.

Rob. What hempen home-spuns haue we swagge- ring here, So neere the Cradle of the Faerie Queene? 75 What, a Play toward? Ile be an auditor, An Actor too perhaps, if I see cause.

Quin. Speake *Piramus*: *Thisby* stand forth.

Pir. *Thisby*, the flowers of odious fauours sweete.

Quin. Odours, odours. 80

Pir. Odours fauours sweete,

So hath thy breath, my dearest *Thisby* deare. But harke, a voyce: stay thou but here a while, And by and by I will to thee appeare. *Exit. Pir.*

Puck. A stranger *Piramus*, then ere plaid here. 85

Thyf. Must I speake now?

Pet. I marry must you. For you must vnderstand he goes but to see a noyse that he heard, and is to come againe.

Thyf. Most radiant *Piramus*, most Lilly white of hue, 90 Of colour like the red rose on triumphant bryer, Most brisky Iuuenall, and eke most louely Iew, As true as truest horse, that yet would neuer tyre, Ile meete thee *Piramus*, at *Ninnies* toombe.

Pet. *Ninus* toombe man: why, you must not speake 95 that yet; that you answere to *Piramus*: you speake all your part at once, cues and all. *Piramus* enter, your cue is past; it is neuer tyre.

⁶⁴],: F ⁶⁵ fom lome F ⁶⁶ cast, F holde F ⁶⁷],: F crany F *Pyr-* F ⁷⁰ rehearse F ⁷¹ *Pyr-* F beginne: F ⁷⁴ homespunnes F swagging FR ⁷⁵ Fairy FR ⁷⁷ to F -happes F ⁷⁸ *Pyr-* F],: R *Thyf/by* F ⁷⁹],om. F fauours F ⁸⁰ Odours, odorous. FR ⁸¹ fauours F],: F ⁸³ voyce F heere FR ⁸⁴ *Pir.*]om. FR ⁸⁵ *Puck.*] *Quin.* FR *Pyr-* F played heere F ⁸⁷ FR27 *Pet.*] *Quin.* F -stād, F ⁸⁸ noyse, F ⁹⁰ *Pyr-* F lillie F hewe F ⁹¹ redrose, F ⁹² eeke F Iewe F ⁹⁴ *Pyr-* F toombe F ⁹⁵ *Pet.*] *Quin.* F toombe, man. F],? F om. R speake/That F ⁹⁶],: F answer R *Pyramus.* F speake/Al F ⁹⁷ cues, and, F al R *Pyramus*, F],: F ⁹⁸],: F is; F tire F

Thyf. O, as true as truest horse, that yet would neuer tyre :

Pir. If I were faire, *Thisby* I were onely thine. 100 [152³]

Pet. O monstrous. O strange. We are hanted ; pray maisters, flye maisters, helpe.

The Clownes all Exit.

Puk. Ile follow you, Ile leade you about a Round,
Through bogge, through bush, through brake, through
Sometime a horse Ile be, fometime a hound : (bryer, 105
A hogge, a headlesse beare, fometime a fire,
And neigh, and barke, and grunt, and rore, and burne,
Like horse, hound, hog, beare, fire, at euery turne. *Exit.*

Enter Piramus with the Asses head.

Bot. Why do they run away ? This is a knauery of them to make me asfeard. *Enter Snowt.* 110

Sn. O *Bottom*, thou art chang'd ; What doe I see on thee ?

Bot. What do you see ? You see an Asses-head of your owne, do you ?

Enter Peter Quince.

Pet. Blesse thee *Bottom*, blesse thee ; thou art translated. *Exit.* 115

Bot. I see their knauery ; this is to make an asse of me, to fright me if they could ; but I will not stirre from this place, do what they can. I will walke vp and downe here, and I will sing that they shall heare I am not a- 120
fraid.

The Woofell cocke, so blacke of hew,

With Orange-tawny bill.

The Throffle, with his note so true,

The Wren and little quill. 125

Tyta. What Angell wakes me from my flowry bed ?

Bot. The Finch, the Sparrow, and the Larke,

The plainfong Cuckow gray ;

Whose note full many a man doth marke,

And dares not answere, nay. 130

⁹⁹ .]. FR ¹⁰⁰ *Thysby*, F ¹⁰¹ *Pet.*] *Quin.* F .]. F .]. F haunted FR
;]. F ¹⁰² .]. F fly F .]. F *The Clownes all exit.*] *om.* FR ¹⁰³ *Puk.*] *Rob.* FR you: Ile F ¹⁰⁴ bryer,] bryer: F bryer R ¹⁰⁵ some- FR ;], FR
¹⁰⁶ headelesse F fier F ¹⁰⁸ hogge F *Enter Piramus with the Asses head.*] *om.* FR ¹⁰⁹ doe F runne F ¹¹⁰ mee F Snowte F ¹¹¹ chaung'd. F
do FR ¹¹³ doe F Asses head FR ¹¹⁴ own R .]. FR *Peter*] *om.* F
¹¹⁵ *Pet.*] *Quin.* F -tom F ;]. F ¹¹⁷ .]. F mee F ¹¹⁸ me, F ;]. F wil F
flir R ¹²⁰ heere FR ¹²¹ afraide F ¹²² cock F hewe F ¹²³ Orange
tawny bill, FR ¹²⁴ FR23 ¹²⁵ Wren, F and] with FR ¹²⁷ Fynch F
-rowe F ¹²⁸ .]. F ¹²⁹ note, F ¹³⁰ answer R

For indeede, who would fet his wit to fo foolifh a bird?
Who would giue a bird the lye, though he cry Cuckow,
neuer fo?

Tyta. I pray thee gentle mortall, fmg againe,
Mine eare is much enamored of thy note; 135
On the firft view to fay, to fweare I loue thee.

So is mine eye enthralled to thy fhape,
And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me.

Bot. Me-thinkes miftrefle, you fhould haue little
reafon for that: and yet to fay the truth, reaſon and 140
loue keepe little company together, now-adayes.
The more the pittie, that ſome honeſt neighbours will
not make them friends. Nay, I can gleeke vpon occa-
ſion.

Tyta. Thou art as wife, as thou art beautifull. 145

Bot. Not fo neither: but if I had wit enough to get
out of this wood, I haue enough to ferue mine owne
turne.

Tyta. Out of this wood, do not deſire to goe,
Thou ſhalt remaine here, whether thou wilt or no. 150
I am a ſpirit of no common rate:

The Summer ſtill doth tend vpon my ſtate,
And I doe loue thee; therefore goe with me,
He giue thee Fairies to attend on thee;
And they ſhall fetch thee Iewels from the deepe, 155
And ſing, while thou on preſſed flowers doſt ſleepe:
And I will purge thy mortall groſſeneſſe ſo,
That thou ſhalt like an airie ſpirit go.

*Enter Peaſe-bloſſome, Cobweb, Moth, Muſtard-
ſeede, and foure Fairies.*

Fai. Ready; and I, and I, and I, Where ſhall we go?

Tita. Be kinde and curteous to this Gentleman, 160 [151¹]
Hop in his walkes, and gambole in his eies,
Feede him with Apricocks, and Dewberries,
With purple Grapes, Greene Figs, and Mulberries,

¹³¹ indeed R birde F ¹³² ly F hee F ¹³⁴ thee, F againe. F
¹³⁵ Myne F enamoured F ;]: F ¹³⁶⁻⁸ So is mine eye enthralled to thy
ſhape./ And thy faire vertues force (perforce) doth moue me,/ On the firſt
viewe to ſay, to ſweare, I loue thee. F ¹³⁸ .], R ¹³⁹ Mee thinks F Me-
thinks R ¹⁴⁰ .]. F yet, F ¹⁴¹ now a daies F now adayes R ¹⁴² -ty FR
¹⁴³ .], om. FR gleeke, F ¹⁴⁷ owne] owe F ¹⁴⁹ doe F ;]: F ¹⁵¹ ſpirit, F
¹⁵² Sommer, F Sommer R ſtill, F ¹⁵³ do R ;]: F go R mee. F
¹⁵⁴ ;]: F ¹⁵⁵ Iewels, F ¹⁵⁶ thou, F flowers, F ¹⁵⁸ ſhalt, F ayery F
ayry R ſpirit, goe F *Enter Peaſe-bloſſome, Cobweb, Moth, Muſtard-
ſeede, and foure Fairies.*] *Peaſe-bloſſome, Cobweb, Moth, and Muſtard-ſeede?* /
Enter foure Fairies. F *Peaſe-bloſſome, Cobweb, Moth, and Muſtard-ſeede.* /
Enter foure Fairies. R ¹⁵⁹ FR29 *Fai.* Fairies. F Readie: F I, Where]
I. Where FR goe F ¹⁶¹ eyes F ¹⁶³ figges F

The honie-bags steale from the humble Bees,
 And for night-tapers crop their waxen thighes, 165
 And light them at the fierie-Glow-wormes eyes,
 To haue my loue to bed, and to arife:
 And plucke the wings from painted Butterflies,
 To fan the Moone-beames from his sleeping eies.
 Nod to him Elues, and doe him curtesies. 170

1. *Fai.* Haile mortall, haile.

2. *Fai.* Haile.

3. *Fai.* Haile.

Bot. I cry your worships mercy hartily; I beseech
 your worships name. 175

Cob. *Cobweb.*

Bot. I shall desire you of more acquaintance, good
 Master *Cobweb*: if I cut my finger, I shall make bold
 with you.

Your name honest Gentleman? 180

Peaf. *Pease blossome.*

Bot. I pray you commend mee to mistresse *Squash*,
 your mother, and to master *Peascod* your father. Good
 master *Pease-blossome*, I shal desire of you more acquain-
 tance to. Your name I beseech you fir? 185

Muf. *Mustard-seede.*

Peaf. *Pease-blossome.*

Bot. Good master *Mustard seede*, I know your pati-
 ence well: that same cowardly gyant-like Oxe-beefe
 hath deuoured many a gentleman of your house. I pro- 190
 mise you, your kindred hath made my eyes water ere
 now. I desire you more acquaintance, good Master
Mustard-seede.

Tita. Come waite vpon him, lead him to my bower.
 The Moone me-thinks, lookes with a watrie eie, 195
 And when she weepes, weepe euerie little flower,
 Lamenting some enforced chastitie.

Tye vp my louers tongue, bring him silently. *Exit.*

Enter King of Pharies, solus. [III. 2.]

Ob. I wonder if *Titania* be awak't;

¹⁶⁴hony bagges F hony bags R ¹⁶⁵night tapers, FR ¹⁶⁶croppe F
¹⁶⁶ferie-]fiery FR ¹⁶⁷Glowe- F ¹⁶⁸eies R ¹⁶⁷bedde F :], F ¹⁶⁸om. R ¹⁶⁹pluck F
wings, F ¹⁶⁹fanne FR ¹⁷⁰eyes, FR ¹⁷¹do R ¹⁷²-cy, F :], F ¹⁷³-shippes F
¹⁷⁴-webbe F ¹⁷⁵bolde F ¹⁷⁶*Pease-blossome* FR ¹⁷⁷me R ¹⁷⁸-cod, F
¹⁷⁹shall FR of you]you of FR ¹⁸⁰-tance, F ¹⁸¹om. F ¹⁸²*Peaf.* *Pease-*
blossome.]om. FR ¹⁸³*Mustardseede* F ¹⁸⁴seed R ¹⁸⁵ly, F ¹⁸⁶gyant-
like, Oxbeefe F ¹⁸⁷deuourd F ¹⁸⁸water, F ¹⁸⁹om. FR ¹⁹⁰-feed R
¹⁹¹leade FR ¹⁹²Moone, me thinkes F ¹⁹³watry FR ¹⁹⁴eye: F
¹⁹⁵thee F ¹⁹⁶weepes F ¹⁹⁷-ry FR ¹⁹⁸FR30 ¹⁹⁹-ty R ²⁰⁰Ty F ²⁰¹Fai-
ries FR *solus*]and Robin goodfellow FR good-fel- R

Then what it was that next came in her eye,
Which she must dote on, in extremitie.

Enter Pucke.

Here comes my messenger : how now mad spirit,
What night-rule now about this gaunted groue ? 5

Puck. My Mistris with a monster is in loue,
Neere to her clofe and consecrated bowe,
While she was in her dull and sleeping hower,
A crew of patches, rude Mechanicals,
That worke for bread vpon *Athenian* stals, 10
Were met together to rehearse a Play,
Intended for great *Thefeus* nuptiall day :
The shallowest thick-skin of that barren fort,
Who *Piramus* presented, in their sport,
Forooke his Scene, and entred in a brake, 15
When I did him at this aduantage take,
An Affes nolle I fixed on his head.

Anon his *Thisbie* must be answered,
And forth my Mimmick comes : when they him spie,
As Wilde-geefe, that the creeping Fowler eye, 20
Or ruffed-pated choughes, many in fort
(Rising and cawing at the guns report)
Seuer themselues, and madly sweepe the skye :

So at his sight, away his fellowes flye, [151²]
And at our stampe, here ore and ore one fals ; 25

He murther cries, and helpe from *Athens* calls.
Their sense thus weake, lost with their fears thus strong,
Made senselesse things begin to do them wrong.
For briars and thornes at their apparell snatch,
Some sleeues, some hats, from yeelders all things catch, 30
I led them on in this distracted feare,

And left sweete *Piramus* translated there :
When in that moment (so it came to passe)
Tytania waked, and straightway lou'd an Affe.

Ob. This fals out better then I could deuise : 35
But hast thou yet lacht the *Athenians* eyes,
With the loue iuyce, as I did bid thee doe ?

² was, F ³ extream- F -ty R *Enter Pucke.*] om. FR ⁴ ;]. F now, F
;]. F ⁵ -]om. F gaunted] haunted FR ⁶ mistresse FR ⁷ ;]. F ⁸ dull, F
⁹ Mechan- FR ¹⁰ bread, FR stales FR ¹¹ thickskinne, F barraine F
¹⁴ Pyr- F ¹⁶ ;]. F ¹⁹ Minnick F Minnock R :]. F spy FR ;]. F
²³ wilde geefe FR Fou- F ²¹ ruffet pated F ruffed pated R ²² Ryfing,
and cawing, F gunnes F ²³ fky FR ²⁴ So, F fly F ²⁵ ore, one F
falles FR ;]. F ²⁶ cries FR ²⁷ sense, F feares, F feares R ²⁸ doe F
²⁹ For, briars F thornes, F -ell, F ;]. F ³⁰ hats ; F -ers, F ;]. F
³¹ on, F ³² Pyr- F ³³ FR31 ³⁴ wak't F straight way F ³⁵ falles FR
-ter, F ;]. F ³⁶ lacht F ³⁷ iuice F do R

Rob. I tooke him sleeping (that is finisht to)
And the *Athenian* woman by his side,
That when he wak't, of force she must be eyde. 40

Enter Demetrius and Hermia.

Ob. Stand close, this is the same *Athenian*.

Rob. This is the woman, but not this the man.

Dem. O why rebuke you him that loues you so?
Lay breath so bitter on your bitter foe.

Her. Now I but chide, but I should vse thee worse. 45

For thou (I feare) hast giuen me cause to curse,
If thou hast slaine *Lyfander* in his sleepe,
Being ore shoes in bloud, plunge in the deepe, and kill
me too:

The Sunne was not so true vnto the day, 50

As he to me. Would he haue stollen away,
From sleeping *Hermia*? Ile beleue as soone
This whole earth may be bord, and that the Moone
May through the Center creepe, and so displease
Her brothers noonetide, with th' *Antipodes*. 55

It cannot be but thou hast murdred him,
So should a mutrherer looke, so dead, so grim.

Dem. So should the murderer looke, and so should I,
Pierst through the heart with your stearne cruelty:
Yet you the murderer looks as bright as cleare, 60
As yonder *Venus* in her glimmering spheare.

Her. What's this to my *Lyfander*? where is he?
Ah good *Demetrius*, wilt thou giue him me?

Dem. I'de rather giue his carkaffe to my hounds.

Her. Out dog, out cur, thou driu'st me past the bounds 65
Of maidens patience. Hast thou slaine him then?

Henceforth be neuer numbred among men.

Oh, once tell true, euen for my sake,

Durst thou a lookt vpon him, being awake?

And hast thou kill'd him sleeping? O braue tutch: 70

Could not a worme, an Adder do so much?

An Adder did it: for with doubler tongue

Then thine (thou serpent) neuer Adder stung.

Dem. You spend your passion on a mispris'd mood,

³⁹ woman, F .j.; F ⁴⁰ ey'd F ⁴¹.j.; F ⁴².j.; F ⁴³ O, F him, F ⁴⁴ bitter, on F ⁴⁵.j.; F ⁴⁶.j. FR ⁴⁷-der, F .j.; F ⁴⁸ blood F ⁴⁹ mee to. F to, R ⁵¹hee to mee F ⁵² Frow F ⁵³beleue, as soone, F ⁵³bor'd FR ⁵⁵be, F .j. F ⁵⁷murtherer F murderer R looke; F grimme F ⁵⁸murthered F murdered R ⁵⁹Pearst F heart, F sterne F .j. F ⁶⁰you, F murtherer, F looke as bright, FR cleere F ⁶¹*Venus*, F ⁶²Whats F ⁶³hee F ⁶⁴me F ⁶⁴I'de] I had F ⁶⁵Ide R ⁶⁶carcasse F ⁶⁶curre FR .j.; F bonds R ⁶⁸FR32 O F true] true: tell true F ⁶⁹ake: F ⁶⁹a] haue FR ⁷⁰kild FR him, F .j.; F ⁷².j. R ⁷³thyne F ⁷⁴spende F ⁷⁴-fion, F ⁷⁵-pris'd F ⁷⁶-priz'd R .j.; F

I am not guiltie of *Lyfanders* blood: 75
Nor is he dead for ought that I can tell.

Her. I pray thee tell me then that he is well.

Dem. And if I could, what should I get therefore?

Her. A priuiledge, neuer to see me more;
And from thy hated prefence part I: see me no more 80
Whether he be dead or no. *Exit.*

Dem. There is no following her in this fierce vaine,
Here therefore for a while I will remaine.
So sorrowes heauinesse doth heauier grow:
For debt that bankrout flip doth sorrow owe, 85
Which now in some slight measure it will pay,
If for his tender here I make some stay. *Lie downe.* [154¹]

Ob. What hast thou done? Thou hast mistaken quite
And laid the loue iuice on some true lous sight:
Of thy misprision, must perforce ensue 90
Some true loue turn'd, and not a false turn'd true.

Rob. Then fate ore-rules, that one man holding troth,
A million faile, confounding oath on oath.

Ob. About the wood, goe swifter then the winde,
And *Helena* of *Athens* looke thou finde. 95
All fancy sicke she is, and pale of cheere,
With sighes of loue, that costs the fresh blood deare.
By some illusion see thou bring her heere,
Ile charme his eyes against she doth appeare.

Robin. I go, I go, looke how I goe, 100
Swifter then arrow from the *Tartars* bowe. *Exit.*

Ob. Flower of this purple die,
Hit with *Cupids* archery,
Sinke in apple of his eye,
When his loue he doth espie, 105
Let her shine as gloriously
As the *Venus* of the sky.
When thou wak'st if she be by,
Beg of her for remedy.

Enter Pucke.

Puck. Captaine of our Fairy band, 110
Helena is heere at hand,
And the youth, mistooke by me,

⁷⁵-ty FR bloude F bloud R ⁷⁶deade, F dead, R ⁷⁷thee, F mee F
then, FR ⁷⁹mee F ;]: F, R ⁸¹more; F more, R ⁸²]. F
⁸³Heere FR -fore, F while, F ⁸⁴growe F :]. FR ⁸⁵flippe F ;]: F
⁸⁶]; F ⁸⁷heere R *Ly donne* F ⁸⁸quite, FR ⁸⁹laide R iuice F
:] F ⁹¹turnd F turnd FR ⁹²].om. F ⁹⁶is,] is F ⁹⁷blood F
⁹⁸here: F ⁹⁹eyes, F eies, R doth] doe F do R ¹⁰⁰I goe, I goe, F
:] F ¹⁰¹arrow, F *Exit.*] om. F ¹⁰²dy F ¹⁰³FR33 ¹⁰⁶efpy FR
¹⁰⁸wak't, FR ¹⁰⁹Begge of her, F *Puck* F ¹¹¹hande F ¹¹²mee F

Pleading for a Louers fee.

Shall we their fond Pageant fee?

Lord, what fooles theſe mortals be!

115

Ob. Stand aſide: the noyſe they make,

Will cauſe *Demetrius* to awake.

Puck. Then will two at once wooe one,

That muſt needs be ſport alone:

And thoſe things doe beſt pleaſe me,

120

That befall prepoſterouſly.

Enter Lyſander and Helena.

Lyf. Why ſhould you think y^e I ſhould wooe in ſcorn?

Scorne and deriſion neuer comes in teares:

Looke when I vow I weepe; and vowes ſo borne,

In their natiuity all truth appeares.

125

How can theſe things in me, ſeeme ſcorne to you?

Bearing the badge of faith to proue them true.

Hel. You doe aduance your cunning more & more,

When truth kils truth, O diueliſh holy fray!

Theſe vowes are *Hermias*. Will you giue her ore?

130

Weigh oath with oath, and you will nothing weigh.

Your vowes to her, and me, (put in two ſcales)

Will euen weigh, and both as light as tales.

Lyf. I had no iudgement, when to her I ſwore.

Hel. Nor none in my minde, now you giue her ore.

135

Lyf. *Demetrius* loues her, and he loues not you. *Awa.*

Dem. O *Helena*, goddeſſe, nimph, perfect, diuine,

To what my, loue, ſhall I compare thine eyne!

Chriſtall is muddy, O how ripe in ſhow,

Thy lips, thoſe kiſſing cherries, tempting grow!

140

That pure congealed white, high *Taurus* ſnow,

Fan'd with the Eaſterne winde, turnes to a crow,

When thou holdſt vp thy hand. O let me kiſſe

This Princeſſe of pure white, this ſeale of bliſſe.

Hell. O ſpight! O hell! I fee you are all bent

145

To ſet againſt me, for your merriment:

If you were ciuill, and knew curteſie,

You would not doe me thus much iniury.

Can you not hate me, as I know you doe,

[154²]

114 wee F 115 bee F 116:] F noyſe, F 118 two, at once, F :] F
 119 needes F :] F 120 do FR mee F 121 prepoſt'rouſly F -der, F
 122 think, F ſcorne F 123 Scorne, F -ſion F come FR :] F 124 vow, F
 :] F 125 -itie F 126 things, in mee F 127 proue F 128 do R -ning,
 more, F 129 trueth killes F 130 oath, with F waigh F 132 mee F
 ,om. FR 133:] F 135 none, F 136 FR 34 :] F *Awa.*] om. FR
 137 nymph, perfect diuine F 138 what, my loue FR eine R 139:] F
 O, F ripe, F ſnowe FR 140 lippes F growe F 141 coniealed F
 142 Fand F crowe F 143 O, F 145 [ee, F are all] all are FR 146 mee F
 :] F 148 do R mee F 149 mee F do R

But you must ioyne in foules to mocke me to ? 150

If you are men, as men you are in shew,

You would not vse a gentle Lady so ;

To vow, and sweare, and superpraise my parts,

When I am sure you hate me with your hearts.

You both are Riuals, and loue *Hermia* ; 155

And now both Riuals to mocke *Helena*.

A trim exploit, a manly enterprize,

To coniure teares vp in a poore maids eyes,

With your derision ; none of noble sort,

Would so offend a Virgin, and extort 160

A poore foules patience, all to make you sport.

Lyfa. You are vnkind *Demetrius* ; be not so,

For you loue *Hermia* ; this you know I know ;

And here with all good will, with all my heart,

In *Hermias* loue I yeeld you vp my part ; 165

And yours of *Helena*, to me bequeath,

Whom I do loue, and will do to my death.

Hel. Neuer did mockers waite more idle breth.

Dem. *Lyfander*, keep thy *Hermia*, I will none :

If ere I lou'd her, all that loue is gone. 170

My heart to her, but as guest-wife sojourn'd,

And now to *Helen* it is home return'd,

There to remaine.

Lyf. It is not so.

De. Disparage not the faith thou dost not know,

Left to thy perill thou abide it deare. 175

Looke where thy Loue comes, yonder is thy deare.

Enter Hermia.

Her. Dark night, that from the eye his function takes,

The eare more quicke of apprehension makes,

Wherein it doth impaire the seeing sense,

It paies the hearing double recompence. 180

Thou art not by mine eye, *Lyfander* found,

Mine eare (I thanke it) brought me to that found.

But why vnkindly didst thou leaue me so ? (to go ?

Lyfan. Why should hee stay whom Loue doth presse

¹⁵⁰ioyne, in foules, F mee F too R ¹⁵¹are men] were men FR
showe F ¹⁵³vowe F ¹⁵⁴sure, F mee F ¹⁵⁵;] F ¹⁵⁶Riualles, F
Riuals, R mock F ¹⁵⁷-prife F ¹⁵⁸vp, F maides FR ¹⁵⁹;] om. F
R None, F ¹⁶⁰virgine FR ¹⁶²vnkinde, F vnkinde R ;] F ;] FR
¹⁶³mia: F ;] F ¹⁶⁴heare, F heere R ¹⁶⁵yeelde F ;] F ¹⁶⁶mee F
;] F ¹⁶⁷doe F to] till F ¹⁶⁸waite FR breath FR ¹⁶⁹keepe FR ;] F
;] F ¹⁷¹FR35 guestwife, F sojourn'd FR ;] F ¹⁷²*Helen*, is it F
return'd F ¹⁷³It is] *Helen*, it is F ¹⁷⁴faith, F ;] F ¹⁷⁵Leaf FR
-ill F aby F ¹⁷⁶;] F ¹⁷⁷Darke FR eye, F ¹⁷⁸;] F ¹⁸⁰It FR
payes F ¹⁸¹not, by myne F eie R -der, found: F ¹⁸²care, I thanke
it, F that] thy FR ¹⁸³why, F -ly, F mee F ¹⁸⁴he stay, FR

- Her.* What loue could presse *Lyfander* from my side? 185
Lyf. *Lyfanders* loue (that would not let him bide)
 Faire *Helena*; who more engilds the night,
 Then all yon fierie oes, and eies of light.
 Why seek'st thou me? Could not this make thee know,
 The hate I bare thee, made me leaue thee fo? 190
Her. You speake not as you thinke; it cannot be.
Hel. Loe, she is one of this confederacy,
 Now I perceiue they haue conioyn'd all three,
 To fashon this false sport in spight of me.
 Iniurious *Hermia*, most vngratefull maid, 195
 Haue you conspir'd, haue you with these contriu'd
 To baite me, with this foule derision?
 Is all the counsell that we two haue shar'd,
 The sisters vowes, the houres that we haue spent,
 When wee haue chid the hasty footed time, 200
 For parting vs; O, is all forgot?
 All schoole-daies friendship, child-hood innocence?
 We *Hermia*, like two Artificiall gods,
 Haue with our needles, created both one flower,
 Both on one sampler, sitting on one cushion, 205
 Both warbling of one song, both in one key;
 As if our hands, our sides, voices, and mindes
 Had bene incorporate. So we grew together,
 Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,
 But yet a vnion in partition, 210
 Two louely berries molded on one stem, [1551]
 So with two seeming bodies, but one heart,
 Two of the first life coats in Heraldry,
 Due but to one and crowned with one crest.
 And will you rent our ancient loue afunder, 215
 To ioyne with men in scorning your poore friend?
 It is not friendly, 'tis not maidenly.
 Our sexe as well as I, may chide you for it,
 Though I alone doe feele the iniurie.
Her. I am amazed at your passionate words, 220
 I scorne you not; It seemes that you scorne me.
Hel. Haue you not set *Lyfander*, as in scorne
 To follow me, and praise my eies and face?
 And made your other loue, *Demetrius*

185 -der, F 187 ;j: F ,]om. F 188 -ry FR eyes F 190 mee F 191 ;j: F
 bee F 192 Lo: F ,j. F 193 -ceiue, FR -ioynd FR 194 sport, FR mee F
 195 maide FR 197 mee F 199 howers F 200 we FR -tie F 212 schoole-daies F
 schoole-daies R -shippe F -]om. F 213 Wee, F 204 FR 36 217 voyces F
 218 bin FR wee grewe F -ted; F 210 a] an FR 211 moulded FR
 flemme FR ,j; F 214 to one, FR creast F 215 aun- F 216 men, F
 217 tis FR 218 fex, F it; F 219 do R fele F -ry FR 220 passionate]
 om. FR ,j: F 221 ;j. F mee F 222 scorne, F 223 mee F eyes F

(Who euen but now did fperne me with his foote) 225
 To call me goddesse, nymph, diuine, and rare,
 Precious, celestially? Wherefore speakes he this
 To her he hates? And wherefore doth *Lyfander*
 Denie your loue (so rich within his soule)
 And tender me (forfooth) affection, 230
 But by your setting on, by your consent?
 What though I be not so in grace as you,
 So hung vpon with loue, so fortunate?
 (But miserable most, to loue vnlovd)
 This you should pittie, rather then despise. 235

Her. I vnderstand not what you meane by this.

Hel. I, doe, perseuer, counterfeit fad lookes,
 Make mouthes vpon me when I turne my backe,
 Winke each at other, hold the sweete iest vp:
 This sport well carried, shall be chronicled. 240
 If you haue any pittie, grace, or manners,
 You would not make me such an argument:
 But fare ye well, 'tis partly mine owne fault,
 Which death or absence soone shall remedie.

Lyf. Stay gentle *Helena*, heare my excuse, 245
 My loue, my life, my soule, faire *Helena*.

Hel. O excellent!

Her. Sweete, do not scorne her so.

Dem. If she cannot entreate, I can compell.

Lyf. Thou canst compell, no more then she entreate.

Thy threats haue no more strength then her weak praise. 250

Helen, I loue thee, by my life I doe;

I sweare by that which I will lose for thee,

To proue him false, that saies I loue thee not.

Dem. I say, I loue thee more then he can do.

Lyf. If thou say so, with-draw and proue it too. 255

Dem. Quick, come.

Her. *Lyfander*, whereto tends all this?

Lyf. Away, you *Ethiope*.

Dem. No, no, Sir, seeme to breake loose;

Take on as you would follow,

But yet come not: you are a tame man, go.

225 mee F 226 mee F nymph F 227 Pretious F ,]om. F this, F
 228 wherfore F 229 -ny FR 230 mee F 232 What, F 235 -ty R 236 not, F
 237 I doe, F do R -fait F ,]: F 238 mee, F back: F 239 FR37
 sweete F ieast FR :]. F 240 bee F 241 -ty FR 242 mee F :]. FR
 243 faryewell R ,]: F tis FR mine]my F ,]: F 244 death, F -dy FR
 245 Stay, F -na: F 247 doe F 248 entreat F 249 ,]om. F more, F
 intreat F 250 weake FR 251 :]: F 252 loose F ,]: F 253 prooue F
 255 with-drawe, F prooue F to FR 256 Quick come F 257 -op F No,
 no: heele/Seeme to breake loose: take on as you would follow;/ F
 Sir,]hee'l R 259 :]. F

Lyf. Hang off thou cat, thou bur; vile thing let loose, 260
Or I will shake thee from me like a serpent.

Her. Why are you growne so rude?
What change is this sweete Loue?

Lyf. Thy loue? out tawny *Tartar*, out;
Out loathed medicine; O hated poison hence.

Her. Do you not iest? 265

Hel. Yes foorth, and so do you.

Lyf. *Demetrius*: I will keepe my word with thee.

Dem. I would I had your bond: for I perceiue
A weake bond holds you; Ile not trust your word.

Lyf. What, should I hurt her, strike her, kill her dead?
Although I hate her, Ile not harme her so. 270

Her. What, can you do me greater harme then hate?
Hate me, wherefore? O me, what newes my Loue? [155²]

Am not I *Hermia*? Are not you *Lyfander*?

I am as faire now, as I was ere while.

Since night you lou'd me; yet since night you left me. 275

Why then you left me (O the gods forbid

In earnest, shall I say?

Lyf. I, by my life;

And neuer did desire to see thee more.

Therefore be out of hope, of question, of doubt;

Be certaine, nothing truer: 'tis no iest, 280

That I doe hate thee, and loue *Helena*.

Her. O me, you iugler, you canker blossome,
You theefe of loue; What, haue you come by night,
And stolne my loues heart from him?

Hel. Fine faith:

Haue you no modesty, no maiden shame, 285

No touch of bashfulnesse? What, will you teare

Impatient answers from my gentle tongue?

Fie, fie, you counterfeit, you puppet, you.

Her. Puppet? why so? I, that way goes the game.

Now I perceiue that she hath made compare 290

Betweene our stature, she hath vrg'd her height,

And with her personage, her tall personage,

Her height (forsooth) she hath preuail'd with him.

And are you growne so high in his esteeme,

²³⁹ of F ;]: F ;]; F ²⁶¹ mee, F ²⁶² rude? What change is this, / F
this, R ²⁶³ ;]: F ²⁶⁴ medicine: F poison] potion F ²⁶⁵ Doe F iest FR
;]: F doe F ²⁶⁶ ;], FR word, F ²⁶⁷ ;]. F -ceiue, FR ²⁶⁸ ;]. F
²⁶⁹ FR38 What? F ²⁷¹ What? FR harme, F ²⁷² Hate mee F
newes, F ²⁷⁵ night, F mee F night, F mee F ²⁷⁶ then, F mee F
-bid) FR ²⁷⁷ ;]: F ²⁷⁹ Thefore F ;]: F ²⁸⁰ ;]: F ; R ;]: R tis no
iest FR ²⁸¹ do R ²⁸² mee F iuggler FR ²⁸³ ;]: F ²⁸⁴ heart, F
Fine, I faith. F ifaith. R ²⁸⁷ answeres, F ²⁸⁸ Fy, fy F -fait F -fet R
²⁹⁰ -pare, F ²⁹² tall par- R ²⁹³ -uaild FR

Because I am so dwarfish, and so low? 295
How low am I, thou painted May-pole? Speake,
How low am I? I am not yet so low,
But that my nailes can reach vnto thine eyes.

Hel. I pray you though you mocke me, gentlemen,
Let her not hurt me; I was neuer curst: 300
I haue no gift at all in shrewishnesse;
I am a right maide for my cowardize;
Let her not strike me: you perhaps may thinke,
Because she is something lower then my selfe,
That I can match her. 305

Her. Lower? harke againe.

Hel. Good *Hermia*, do not be so bitter with me,
I euermore did loue you *Hermia*,
Did euer keepe your counsels, neuer wronged you,
Saue that in loue vnto *Demetrius*,
I told him of your stealth vnto this wood. 310
He followed you, for loue I followed him,
But he hath chid me hence, and threatned me
To strike me, spurne me, nay to kill me too;
And now, so you will let me quiet go,
To *Athens* will I beare my folly backe, 315
And follow you no further. Let me go.
You see how simple, and how fond I am.

Her. Why get you gone: who ist that hinders you?

Hel. A foolish heart, that I leaue here behinde.

Her. What, with *Lyfander*? 320

Her. With *Demetrius*.

Lyf. Be not afraid, she shall not harme thee *Helena*.

Dem. No fir, she shall not, though you take her part.

Hel. O when she's angry, she is keene and shrewd,
She was a vixen when she went to schoole,
And though she be but little, she is fierce. 325

Her. Little againe? Nothing but low and little?
Why will you suffer her to flout me thus?
Let me come to her.

Lyf. Get you gone you dwarfe,
You *minimus*, of hindring knot-graffe made,
You bead, you acorne.

Dem. You are too officious, 330

²⁹⁵ ,*om.* FR lowe F ²⁹⁶ lowe F Speake: F ²⁹⁷ lowe F lowe F
²⁹⁹ pray you, F gentleman F ³⁰⁰ ,]; F ³⁰¹ ,]; FR ³⁰² FR39 maid, F
maid R ,]; F ³⁰³ mee. F -haps, F ³⁰⁶ mee F ³⁰⁸ wrongd F ,]; F
³⁰⁹ loue, F ³¹⁰ tould F ³¹¹ ,]; F loue, F ,]. F ³¹² mee F ³¹³ mee F
mee; F mee to. F to R ³¹⁴ goe FR ³¹⁶ goe F ³¹⁸ Why? F gon. F
³¹⁹ heere R behind F ³²¹ *Hel.* With FR ³²¹ ,]; F ³²² fir: F ³²³ O, F
she's] the is F shee's R shrewd. F ³²⁴ -en, F ,]; F ³²⁵ but] hut F
³²⁷ floute F ³²⁸ gon, F ,]; F ³²⁹ knot graffe, F knot graffe R ,]; F

In her behalfe that scornes your seruices.

Let her alone, speake not of *Helena*, [156¹]

Take not her part. For if thou dost intend

Neuer so little shew of loue to her,

Thou shalt abide it. 335

Lys. Now she holds me not,

Now follow if thou dar'st, to try whose right,

Of thine or mine is most in *Helena*.

Dem. Follow? Nay, Ile goe with thee cheeke by

iowle. *Exit Lysander and Demetrius.*

Her. You Mistris, all this coyle is long of you.

Nay, goe not backe. 340

Hel. I will not trust you I,

Nor longer stay in your curst companie.

Your hands then mine, are quicker for a fray,

My legs are longer though to runne away.

Enter Oberon and Pucke.

Ob. This is thy negligence, still thou mistak'st, 345
Or else committ'st thy knaueries willingly.

Puck. Beleeue me, King of shadowes, I mistooke,

Did not you tell me, I should know the man,

By the *Athenian* garments he hath on?

And so farre blamelesse proues my enterprize, 350

That I haue nointed an *Athenians* eies,

And so farre am I glad, it so did fort,

As this their iangling I esteeme a sport.

Ob. Thou seest these Louers seeke a place to fight,

Hie therefore *Robin*, ouercast the night, 355

The starrie Welkin couer thou anon,

With drooping fogge as blacke as *Acheron*,

And lead these testie Riuals so astray,

As one come not within anothers way.

Like to *Lysander*, sometime frame thy tongue, 360

Then stirre *Demetrius* vp with bitter wrong;

And sometime raile thou like *Demetrius*;

And from each other looke thou leade them thus,

331 behalfe, F 332 alone: F 333 FR40 334 shewe F 335 aby F abie R
holdes F ,]: F 336 low, F 337 mine, FR 338 ,]: F go FR thee, F
Exit Lysander and Demetrius.] om. F *Exit.* R 339 You, F mistresse FR
340 ,]: F you, F 341 Not R -ny FR 342 hands, F than FR fray: F
343 legges F though, F 344 *Her.* I am amaz'd, and know not what to
say. *Exeunt.* FR om. Folio *Enter Oberon and Pucke.*] om. FR
345 gence: F 346 -mitt F -mit't R willingly] wilfully FR 347 mee F
shadowes R -tooke. FR 348 mee, I shoud F 349 -ments, F hath] had F
350 And, F proues F -prife F 351 eyes FR ,]: F 352 seest, F ,]: F
353 Hy F 354 -ry FR 355 leade R teasty F -ty R 356 tongue: F
357 vp, F ,]: F 358 ,]: F 359 other, F lead F ,]: F

Till ore their browes, death-counterfeiting, sleepe
 With leaden legs, and Battie-wings doth creepe ; 365
 Then cruſh this hearbe into *Lysanders* eie,
 Whose liquor hath this vertuous propertie,
 To take from thence all error, with his might,
 And make his eie-bals role with wonted sight.
 When they next wake, all this deriſion 370
 Shall ſeeme a dreame, and fruitleſſe viſion,
 And backe to *Athens* ſhall the Louers wend
 With league, whose date till death ſhall neuer end.
 Whiles I in this affaire do thee imply,
 Ile to my Queene, and beg her *Indian* Boy ; 375
 And then I will her charmed eie releaſe
 From monſters view, and all things ſhall be peace.

Puck. My Fairie Lord, this muſt be done with haſte,
 For night-ſwift Dragons cut the Clouds full faſt,
 And yonder ſhines *Auroras* harbinger ; 380
 At whoſe approach Ghoſts wandring here and there,
 Troope home to Church-yards ; damned ſpirits all,
 That in croſſe-waies and fouds haue buriall,
 Alreadie to their wormie beds are gone ;
 For feare leaſt day ſhould looke their ſhames vpon, 385
 They wilfully themſelues dxile from light,
 And muſt for aye comfort with blacke browd night.

Ob. But we are ſpirits of another ſort :
 I, with the mornings loue haue oft made ſport,
 And like a Forreſter, the groues may tread, 390
 Euen till the Eaſterne gate all fierie red,
 Opening on *Neptune*, with faire bleſſed beames,
 Turnes into yellow gold, his ſalt greene ſtreames.
 But notwithstanding haſte, make no delay : [156²]
 We may effect this buſineſſe, yet ere day. 395

Puck. Vp and downe, vp and downe, I will leade
 them vp and downe : I am fear'd in field and towne.
Goblin, lead them vp and downe : here comes one. 400

Enter Lyſander.

Lyf. Where art thou, proud *Demetrius*?
 Speake thou now.

³⁶⁴-faiſting, ſleepe, F ³⁶⁵ledgs R Batty wings FR ;]: F ³⁶⁶FR41
 eye ; F ³⁶⁷-ty FR ³⁶⁸-our F ³⁶⁹eyebals F roule F rolle R
³⁷¹fruitleſſe F ³⁷²wend, F ³⁷³date, F ³⁷⁴I, F -faire, doe, F im-
 ply] imploy F apply R ³⁷⁵,]om. F ;]: F ³⁷⁶eye F ³⁷⁷viewe F
³⁷⁸Faierie F haſte. F ³⁷⁹nights ſwift F night ſwift R ³⁸⁰;]: F ³⁸¹ap-
 proach, F approach R Ghoſts, F heere R ³⁸²-]om. F ;]: F ³⁸³croſſe
 waies FR floods F ³⁸⁴-dy FR -my FR ;]: F ³⁸⁶exile FR ³⁸⁷aie R
 black browed F ³⁸⁸;]. F ³⁸⁹loue, F ³⁹⁰tread,] tread F ³⁹¹-ry FR
³⁹³Turnes, F golde F ³⁹⁴notwiſtandjng, F ;], R ³⁹⁶down F down F
³⁹⁷lead F dowe. F ³⁹⁸town F ³⁹⁹;]. F ⁴⁰¹Speak FR now./ FR

Rob. Here villaine, drawne & readie. Where art thou?

Lyf. I will be with thee straight.

Rob. Follow me then to plainer ground.

Enter Demetrius.

Dem. *Lyfander*, speake againe;

Thou runaway, thou coward, art thou fled? 405

Speake in fome bush: Where dost thou hide thy head?

Rob. Thou coward, art thou bragging to the stars,
Telling the bushes that thou look'st for wars,
And wilt not come? Come recreant, come thou childe,
He whip thee with a rod. He is defil'd 410
That drawes a sword on thee.

Dem. Yea, art thou there?

Ro. Follow my voice, we'll try no manhood here. *Exit.*

Lyf. He goes before me, and still dares me on,
When I come where he calls, then he's gone.
The villaine is much lighter heel'd then I: 415

I followed fast, but faster he did flye; *shifting places.*

That fallen am I in darke vneuen way,
And here wil rest me. Come thou gentle day: *lye down.*

For if but once thou shew me thy gray light,
He finde *Demetrius*, and reuenge this spight. 420

Enter Robin and Demetrius.

Rob. Ho, ho, ho; coward, why com'st thou not?

Dem. Abide me, if thou dar'st. For well I wot,
Thou runst before me, shifting euery place,
And dar'st not stand, nor looke me in the face.
Where art thou? 425

Rob. Come hither, I am here.

Dem. Nay then thou mock'st me; thou shalt buy this
deere,

If euer I thy face by day-light see.

Now goe thy way: faintnesse constraineth me,
To measure out my length on this cold bed,
By daies approach looke to be visited. 430

402 -dy FR 403 FR 404 ;]. F 406 ;]. FR doest F 407 ;]om. F
-ing, F starres F 408 warres FR 410 whippe F rodde F defil'd, F
412 ;]. F weele F wee'l R *Exit* FR 413 on: F 414 calles FR he
is F hee's R gon F 415 ;]. FR 416 ;]. F fly F fle R *shifting places.*
om. FR 417 vneauen F 418 will FR ;]. F *lye down.* om. FR 419 once, F
shewe F 420 *Enter* om. FR Robin, F 421 ;]. F comst F 422 mee F
425 Where art thou now? F ;]. F 426 mockst FR ;]. F that F dear F
deare R 427 day light F 428 Now, F ;]. F mee F 429 -ure, F
length, F ;]. F 430 approach R

Enter Helena.

Hel. O weary night, O long and tedious night,
 Abate thy houres, shine comforts from the East,
 That I may backe to *Athens* by day-light,
 From thefe that my poore companie deteft ;
 And sleepe that sometime shuts vp forrowes eie,
 Steale me a while from mine owne companie. 435
Sleepe.

Rob. Yet but three ? Come one more,
 Two of both kindes makes vp foure.
 Here ſhe comes, curft and fad,
Cupid is a knauifh lad, 440

Enter Hermia.

Thus to make poore females mad.
Her. Neuer fo wearie, neuer fo in woe,
 Bedabbled with the dew, and torne with briars,
 I can no further crawle, no further goe ;
 My legs can keepe no pace with my defires. 445
 Here will I reft me till the breake of day,
 Heauens ſhield *Lyfander*, if they meane a fray.

Rob. On the ground sleepe found,
 Ile apply your eie gentle loue, remedy. 450
 When thou wak'ft, thou tak'ft
 True delight in the fight of thy former Ladies eye,
 And the Country Prouerb knowne, [1571] 455
 That euery man ſhould take his owne,
 In your waking ſhall be ſhowne. 460
Iacke ſhall haue *Jill*, nought ſhall goe ill,
 The man ſhall haue his Mare againe, and all ſhall bee
 well.

They sleepe all the Act.

⁴³² FR⁴³ -forts, F ;]; F ⁴³³ *Athens*, F day light F ⁴³⁴ -ny FR
 ;]; F ⁴³⁵ sleepe, F -times FR eye F ⁴³⁶ mee F -ny R ⁴³⁷ ;]. F
⁴³⁸ fower F ⁴³⁹ Heare ſhee F ⁴⁴⁰ ladde F *Enter Hermia.*]
om. F ⁴⁴¹ madde F ⁴⁴² -ry FR ⁴⁴³ deaw F briers : F ⁴⁴⁴ ;]; F
⁴⁴⁵ legges F ⁴⁴⁶ pafe F ⁴⁴⁷ mee, F ;]; F ⁴⁴⁸ ſhilde F ⁴⁴⁹ ground, F
⁴⁵⁰ ;]; F ⁴⁵¹ eye, F ⁴⁵² delight, F ⁴⁵³ fight, F ⁴⁵⁴ eie R ;]; F
⁴⁵⁵ -erbe FR ⁴⁵⁶ ſhown F ⁴⁵⁷ ;]; F ⁴⁵⁸ go R ;]; F ⁴⁵⁹ again F
 be FR *They sleepe all the Act.*] *om.* FR

Actus Quartus.

Enter Queene of Fairies, and Clowne, and Fairies, and the King behinde them.

Tita. Come, sit thee downe vpon this flowry bed,
While I thy amiable cheekes doe coy,
And sticke muske roses in thy sleeke smoothe head,
And kisse thy faire large eares, my gentle ioy.

Clow. Where's *Pease blossome*?

5

Peaf. Ready.

Clow. Scratch my head, *Pease-blossome*. Wher's Moun-
sieur *Cobweb*.

Cob. Ready.

Clowne. Mounsieur *Cobweb*, good Mounsier get your
weapons in your hand, & kill me a red hipt humble-Bee,
on the top of a thistle; and good Mounsier bring mee
the hony bag. Doe not fret your selfe too much in the
action, Mounsier; and good Mounsier haue a care the
hony bag breake not, I would be loth to haue yon ouer-
flowne with a hony-bag signiour. Where's Mounsier
Mustardseed?

15

Muf. Ready.

Clo. Giue me your neafe, Mounsier *Mustardseed*.
Pray you leaue your courtesie good Mounsier.

20

Muf. What's your will?

Clo. Nothing good Mounsier, but to help Cauallery
Cobweb to scratch. I must to the Barbers Mounsier, for
me-thinks I am maruellous hairy about the face. And I
am such a tender asse, if my haire do but tickle me, I must
scratch.

25

Tita. What, wilt thou heare some musicke, my sweet
loue.

Clow. I haue a reasonable good eare in musicke. Let
vs haue the tongs and the bones.

Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.

Actus Quartus.] om. FR Faeries F Faeries: R ¹ Come sit FR
² do R ³ flick musk F ⁴ smoothe F ⁵ *Pease-blossome* FR ⁷ heade F
-sieur FR ⁸ .] FR ¹⁰ FR44 -sieur] -sieur, F -sieur R get] get you F
¹¹ Humble Bee F ¹² toppe F .]; F -sieur, F me R ¹³ bagge F
much, F ¹⁴ .]; F care, F ¹⁵ honybagge F would be loath F you FR
-flowen F ¹⁶ honibag signior F ¹⁷ -seede F ¹⁸ -die F ¹⁹ -seede F
²⁰ you, F curtsie, F -sie, R ²¹ wil R ²² helpe FR ²³ -webbe, F -bers, F
]. F ²⁴ me thinks F -uailes F -uailous R ²⁵ doe F mee F ²⁷ some
some R -sique F -sick R -sweete F .]; FR ²⁸ -sique F Let vs] Lets F
²⁹ tongs, F *Musicke Tongs, Rurall Musicke.] om. FR*

Tita. Or fay sweete Loue, what thou desirest to eat. 30

Clowne. Truly a pecke of Prouender; I could munch
your good dry Oates. Me-thinkes I haue a great desire
to a bottle of hay: good hay, sweete hay hath no fel-
low.

Tita. I haue a venturous Fairy, 35
That shall seeke the Squirrels hoard,
And fetch thee new Nuts.

Clown. I had rather haue a handfull or two of dried
pease. But I pray you let none of your people stirre me, I
haue an exposition of sleepe come vpon me.

Tyta. Sleepe thou, and I will winde thee in my arms, 40
Fairies be gone, and be alwaies away.
So doth the woodbine, the sweet Honifuckle,
Gently entwist; the female Iuy so
Enrings the barky fingers of the Elme.
O how I loue thee! how I dote on thee! 45 [157²]

Enter Robin goodfellow and Oberon.

Ob. Welcome good *Robin*:
Seest thou this sweet fight?
Her dotage now I doe begin to pittie.
For meeting her of late behinde the wood,
Seeking sweet fauors for this hatefull foole,
I did vpbraide her, and fall out with her. 50
For she his hairy temples then had rounded,
With coronet of fresh and fragrant flowers.
And that same dew which somtime on the buds,
Was wont to swell like round and orient pearles;
Stood now within the pretty flouriets eyes, 55
Like teares that did their owne disgrace bewaile.
When I had at my pleasure taunted her,
And she in milde termes beg'd my patience,
I then did aske of her, her changeling childe,
Which straight she gaue me, and her Fairy sent 60
To beare him to my Bower in Fairy Land.
And now I haue the Boy, I will vndoe
This hatefull imperfection of her eyes.

³⁰ Or, F eate FR ³¹ Truly FR -uander. F mounch FR ³² Me
thinkes, F ³³ .j. F ³⁵⁻⁶ I have a venturous Fairy, that shall seeke the
Squirils hoord,/And fetch thee newe nuts. F ³⁷ -full, F dried F
³⁸ But, F you: F stir R .j.: F ³⁹ mee F ⁴⁰ armes FR ⁴¹ Faeries F
gon F ⁴² sweete FR ⁴³ .j.: F ⁴⁵ FR45 and Oberon] om. FR ⁴⁶ .j. F
sweete F fight?/ FR ⁴⁷ do R -ginne F -tie F ⁴⁸ late, F ⁴⁹ sweete FR
faours] faours F ⁵³ deawe F sometime F buddes F ⁵⁴ swell, F
⁵⁵ eies R ⁵⁶ teares, F ⁵⁷ had, F -ure, F ⁵⁸ she, F tearmes, F
tearmes R begd FR ⁵⁹ childe: F ⁶⁰ mee F ⁶¹ him, F bower, F
-rie F ⁶³ eies R

And gentle *Pucke*, take this transformed scalpe,
 From off the head of this *Athenian* fwaine ; 65
 That he awaking when the other doe,
 May all to *Athens* backe againe repaire,
 And thinke no more of this nights accidents,
 But as the fierce vexation of a dreame.
 But first I will releafe the Fairy Queene. 70

*Be thou as thou wast wont to be ;
 See as thou wast wont to see.
 Dians bud, or Cupids flower,
 Hath such force and blessed power.*

Now my *Titania* wake you my sweet Queene. 75

Tita. My *Oberon*, what visions haue I seene !
 Me-thought I was enamoured of an Affe.

Ob. There lies your loue.

Tita. How came these things to passe ?
 Oh, how mine eyes doth loath this visage now !

Ob. Silence a while. *Robin* take off his head : 80

Titania, musick call, and strike more dead
 Then common sleepe ; of all these, fine the sence.

Tita. Musicke, ho musicke, such as charmeth sleepe.

Musick still.

Rob. When thou wak'st, with thine owne fooles eies
 peepe. (me

Ob. Sound musick ; come my Queen, take hands with 85
 And rocke the ground whereon these sleepers be.

Now thou and I are new in amity,
 And will to morrow midnight, solemnly
 Dance in Duke *Theseus* house triumphantly,
 And blesse it to all faire posterity. 90

There shall the paires of faithfull Louers be
 Wedded, with *Theseus*, all in iollity.

Rob. Faire King attend, and marke,
 I doe heare the morning Larke.

Ob. Then my Queene in silence sad, 95
 Trip we after the nights shade ;

⁶⁴ And, F *Puck* F ⁶⁵ off] of F heade F ⁶⁶ hee, F do FR ⁶⁹ fearce F
⁷¹ *Be thou*] Be, F *Be* R bee : F ⁷² See, F ⁷³ budde F ⁷⁴ force, F
⁷⁵ Now, F ⁷⁶ -nia, F you, FR ⁷⁷ sweete FR ⁷⁸ Me thought F -ourd F
⁷⁹ -ored R ⁸⁰ lyes F loue. / FR ⁸¹ O F eies R doth] doe F loathe R
⁸² this] his F ⁸³ *Robin*, F of R his] this FR :]; R ⁸⁴ -sicke FR ⁸⁵ :]; F
⁸⁶ Musick, howe musick : F *Musick still.*] om. FR ⁸⁷ When] Now, when F
⁸⁸ own fools eyes F peep R ⁸⁹ :]; F come, F me, F ⁹⁰ Now, F -tie F
⁹¹ solemnely F ⁹² Daunce, F ⁹³ posterity] prosperitie F ⁹⁴ -tie F
⁹⁵ Fairy King, FR attend and R marke : F ⁹⁶ do FR ⁹⁷ Queene, F
⁹⁸ Trippe F the] om. F :]; F

We the Globe can compaffe foone,
Swifter then the wandring Moone.

Tita. Come my Lord, and in our flight,
Tell me how it came this night, 100
That I sleeping heere was found,

With these mortals on the ground. *Sleepers Lye still.*
Exeunt. [158]
Winde Hornes.

Enter Theseus, Egeus, Hippolita and all his traine.

Thef. Goe one of you, finde out the Forrefter,
For now our obseruation is perform'd;
And since we haue the vaward of the day, 105
My Loue shall heare the musicke of my hounds.
Vncouple in the Westerne valley, let them goe;
Dispatch I fay, and finde the Forrefter.
We will faire Queene, vp to the Mountaines top.
And marke the musicall confusion 110
Of hounds and eccho in coniunction.

Hip. I was with *Hercules* and *Cadmus* once,
When in a wood of *Creete* they bayed the Beare
With hounds of *Sparta*; neuer did I heare
Such gallant chiding. For besides the groues, 115
The skies, the fountaines, euery region neere,
Seeme all one mutuall cry. I neuer heard
So musicall a discord, such sweet thunder.

Thef. My hounds are bred out of the *Spartan* kinde,
So flew'd, so fanded, and their heads are hung 120
With eares that sweepe away the morning dew,
Crooke kneed, and dew-lapt, like *Theffalian* Buls,
Slow in purfuit, but match'd in mouth like bells,
Each vnder each. A cry more tuneable
Was neuer hallowed to, nor cheer'd with horne, 125
In *Creete*, in *Sparta*, nor in *Theffaly*;
Iudge when you heare. Bnt soft, what nymphs are these?

Egeus. My Lord, this is my daughter heere asleepe,
And this *Lyfander*, this *Demetrius* is,
This *Helena*, olde *Nedars Helena*, 130
I wonder of this being heere together.

⁹⁷ We, the Globe, F ⁹⁹ flight. R ¹⁰¹ here F *Sleepers Lye still.*] om. FR
¹⁰² horne. F *Enter Theseus and all his traine.* FR ¹⁰³ -ster: F
¹⁰⁴ -forme. F ¹⁰⁷ -ple, F -lie F go R ;]: F ¹⁰⁹ Wee will, F toppe F
J, FR ¹¹¹ Echo F ¹¹² FR47 -mus, F ¹¹³ Beare, F ¹¹⁴ ;]: F ¹¹⁶ fkyes F
neare F ,]om. F ¹¹⁸ sweete FR ¹¹⁹ -tane F ,]: F ¹²⁰ fanded: F
¹²¹ eares, F deawe F ¹²² deawlapt F Buls: F ¹²³ Slowe F -suite R
J, F matcht FR ¹²⁴ tunable F ¹²⁵ hollowd FR cheerd F ¹²⁶ ;]. F
¹²⁷ But FR ,]. F nymphes F ¹²⁸ is] om. F a fleepe F ¹³⁰ old F
J, F ¹³¹ this] their F here F

The. No doubt they rose vp early, to obserue
The right of May ; and hearing our intent,
Came heere in grace of our solemnty.
But speake *Egeus*, is not this the day 135
That *Hermia* should giue answer of her choice?

Egeus. It is, my Lord.

Thef. Goe bid the huntf-men wake them with their
hornes.

Hornes and they wake.

Shout within, they all start vp.

Thef. Good morrow friends : Saint *Valentine* is past,
Begin these wood birds but to couple now ? 140

Lyf. Pardon my Lord.

Thef. I pray you all stand vp.
I know you two are Riual enemies.
How comes this gentle concord in the world,
That hatred is is so farre from ieaousie,
To sleepe by hate, and feare no enmity. 145

Lyf. My Lord, I shall reply amazedly,
Halfe sleepe, halfe waking. But as yet, I sweare,
I cannot truly say how I came heere.
But as I thinke (for truly would I speake)
And now I doe bethinke me, so it is ; 150
I came with *Hermia* hither. Our intent
Was to be gone from *Athens*, where we might be
Without the perill of the *Athenian* Law.

Ege. Enough, enough, my Lord : you haue enough ;
I beg the Law, the Law, vpon his head : 155
They would haue stolne away, they would *Demetrius*,
Thereby to haue defeated you and me :
You of your wife, and me of my consent ;
Of my consent, that she should be your wife.

Dem. My Lord, faire *Helen* told me of their stealth, 160
Of this their purpose hither, to this wood,
And I in furie hither followed them ; [158²]
Faire *Helena*, in fancy followed me.
But my good Lord, I wot not by what power,
(But by some power it is) my loue 165
To *Hermia* (melted as the snow)

132 doubt, F earely F 133 ;]: F 134 heere, F -tie F 135 speake, F day, F
136 choyce F choyse R 138 Goe, F Go R -]om. FR *Hornes and they*
wake] *Winde hornes* FR *Shoute within*: F 139 -row, F :]. F :]. F
140 woodbirds F -ple, F 141 -don, FR all, F 142 know, F 143 worlde F
144 is is]is FR 145 FR48 -tie, F 146 shal F 147 But, F 148 truly FR
here FR 149 truly FR 150 do R mee F 151 -mia, F 152 gon F
:] F be]om. F 153 awe, F 154 enough my FR :]. F 155 begge F
156 would, De- FR 158 mee, F :]: F 162 -ry FR 163 following mee F
164 wote F ,]om. FR 165 loue, F 166 snowe F Seemes FR

Seems to me now as the remembrance of an idle gaude,
Which in my childehood I did doat vpon :
And all the faith, the vertue of my heart,
The obiect and the pleasure of mine eye, 170
Is onely *Helena*. To her, my Lord,
Was I betroth'd, ere I see *Hermia*,
But like a sickneffe did I loath this food,
But as in health, come to my naturall taste,
Now doe I wish it, loue it, long for it, 175
And will for euermore be true to it.

Thef. Faire Louers, you are fortunately met ;
Of this discourse we shall heare more anon.
Egeus, I will ouer-beare your will ;
For in the Temple, by and by with vs, 180
These couples shall eternally be knit.
And for the morning now is something worne,
Our purpos'd hunting shall be set aside.
Away, with vs to *Athens* ; three and three,
Wee'll hold a feast in great solemnitie. 185
Come *Hippolite*. *Exit Duke and Lords.*

Dem. These things seeme small & vndistinguishable,
Like farre off mountaines turned into Clouds.

Her. Me-thinks I see these things with parted eye,
When euery things seemes double. 190

Hel. So me-thinkes :
And I haue found *Demetrius*, like a iewell,
Mine owne, and not mine owne.

Dem. It seemes to mee,
That yet we sleepe, we dreame. Do not you thinke,
The Duke was heere, and bid vs follow him? 195

Her. Yea, and my Father.

Hel. And *Hippolite*.

Lyf. And he bid vs follow to the Temple.

Dem. Why then we are awake ; lets follow him, and
by the way let vs recount our dreames.

Bottom wakes.

Exit Louers.

Clo. When my cue comes, call me, and I will answer. 200

168 -hoode F dote FR 170 eie R 172 betrothed F bethroth'd R
-mia : F 173 But, F sickneffe, FR loathe R foode. F 174 But, F
175 doe I I doe F do I R 177 ;]. F 178 -course, FR shall heare more]
more will here F will heare more R 179 F49 -]om. FR ;]: F 180 R49
by, with F 182 And, F something F 184 vs, F ;]. F 185 Weele F
Wee'l R holde F feaft, F -ty R 185-6 *Hippolite*.] F *Exit Duke*
and *Lords*.]om. F *Exit*. R 189 Me thinks F things, F eie R 190 thing FR
mee thinks F 191 found F 192-3 *Dem.* It seemes] *Dem.* Are you sure/
That we are awake? It seemes FR 193 me FR 195 here F 196 *Hippolite* F
197 bid]did bid F 198 then, F ;]: F let's R 199 let vs]lets F *Exit*
Louers.]om. F *Exit*. R *Bottom wakes*.]om. FR 200 mee F answer F

My next is, moſt faire *Piramus*. Hey ho. *Peter Quince*?
Flute the bellows-mender? *Snout* the tinker? *Starueling*? Gods my life! Stolne hence, and left me aleepe: I
 haue had a moſt rare viſion. I had a dreame, paſt the wit
 of man, to ſay, what dreame it was. Man is but an Affe, 205
 if he goe about to expound this dreame. Me-thought I
 was, there is no man can tell what. Me-thought I was,
 and me-thought I had. But man is but a patch'd foole,
 if he will offer to ſay, what me-thought I had. The eye of
 man hath not heard, the eare of man hath not ſeen, mans 210
 hand is not able to taſte, his tongue to conceiue, nor his
 heart to report, what my dreame was. I will get *Peter*
Quince to write a ballet of this dreame, it ſhall be called
Bottomes Dreame, becauſe it hath no bottome; and I will
 ſing it in the latter end of a play, before the Duke. Per- 215
 adventure, to make it the more gracious, I ſhall ſing it
 at her death. *Exit.*

Enter Quince, Flute, Thisbie, Snout, and Starueling. [IV. 2.]

Quin. Haue you ſent to *Bottomes* houſe? Is he come
 home yet?

Staru. He cannot be heard of. Out of doubt hee is
 transported.

Thif. If he come not, then the play is mar'd. It goes 5 [159¹]
 not forward, doth it?

Quin. It is not poſſible: you haue not a man in all
Athens, able to diſcharge *Piramus* but he.

Thif. No, hee hath ſimply the beſt wit of any handy-
 craft man in *Athens*. 10

Quin. Yea, and the beſt perſon too, and hee is a very
 Paramour, for a ſweet voyce.

Thif. You muſt ſay, Paragon. A Paramour is (God
 bleſſe vs) a thing of nought.

Enter Snug the Ioyner.

Snug. Maſters, the Duke is comming from the Tem- 15
 ple, and there is two or three Lords & Ladies more mar-
 ried: If our ſport had gone forward, we had all bin made
 men.

²⁰¹ *Piramus*, F ²⁰² *Peeter* F ²⁰³ *Flute*, F bellows men- F ²⁰⁴ mee a
 ſleepe? F ²⁰⁵ I had] I haue had FR ²⁰⁶ ſay; F ²⁰⁷ hee F go R
 to] om. F Me thought F ²⁰⁸ Me thought F ²⁰⁹ me thought F a
 patch'd] patcht a FR ²¹⁰ hee F mee thought F eie R ²¹¹ ſeene FR
²¹² F50 ²¹³ hearte F dream/ R50 ²¹⁴ dream R,]; F call'd FR
²¹⁵ -toms F,]; F]; F ²¹⁶ gracious F ²¹⁷ *Exit.*] om. F ²¹⁸ -bie,]-by F
Snout, and Starueling] and the rabble FR ²¹⁹ -toms F ²²⁰ home, F ²²¹ *Staru.*]
Flut. FR Hee F,]; F hee F ²²² hee F mard FR ²²³,]. F ²²⁴:]. F
 man, F ²²⁵ *Piramus*, F ²²⁶ he R ²²⁷ man, F ²²⁸ to F he R ²²⁹ ſweete FR
 voyce F ²³⁰ Snug, F ²³¹:]. FR gon F wee F beene FR

This. O sweet bully *Bottom*: thus hath he lost fixpence a day, during his life; he could not haue scaped fixpence a day. And the Duke had not giuen him fixpence a day for playing *Piramus*, Ile be hang'd. He would haue deferued it. Sixpence a day in *Piramus*, or nothing. 20

Enter Bottom.

Bot. Where are these Lads? Where are these hearts?

Quin. *Bottom*, ô most courageous day! O most happye houre! 25

Bot. Masters, I am to discourse wonders; but ask me not what. For if I tell you, I am no true *Athenian*. I will tell you euerie thing as it fell out.

Qu. Let vs heare, sweet *Bottom*. 30

Bot. Not a word of me: all that I will tell you, is, that the Duke hath dined. Get your apparell together, good fringes to your beards, new ribbands to your pumps, meete presently at the Palace, euerie man looke ore his part: for the short and the long is, our play is preferred: In any case let *Thisby* haue cleane linnen: and let not him that playes the Lion, paire his nailes, for they shall hang out for the Lions claws. And most deare Actors, eate no Onions, nor Garlick; for wee are to vtter sweete breath, and I doe not doubt but to heare them say, it is a 35
sweet Comedy. No more words: away, go away. 40

Exeunt.

Actus Quintus.

Enter Theseus, Hippolita, Egeus and his Lords.

Hip. 'Tis strange my *Theseus*, y these louers speake of.

The. More strange then true. I neuer may beleuee These anticke fables, nor these Fairy toyes, Louers and mad men haue such feething braines,

¹⁹ sweete FR :]. F hee F fix pence F fixpence R ²⁰]; F hee coulde F fixe pence F ²¹ fix pence F ²² day, F *Pyr*- F hanged F ²³ Six pence F day, F *Pyramus*,/ F51 -tom F ²⁴ harts F ²⁵ -tom F -py FR ²⁷ R51 :]; F aske FR mee R ²⁸ no] not FR ²⁹ tel R as] right as FR ³⁰ sweete FR -tom F ³¹ mee. F ³² apparrell F ³³ beardes F ribands F pumpes F ³⁴ -rie R ³⁵]; F For, F -ferd. FR ³⁶ him, F ³⁷ plaies FR Lyon, pare F :]; F ³⁸ Lyons F ³⁹]; F we FR ⁴⁰]; F do FR hear F ⁴¹ sweete FR wordes. F *Exeunt.*] om. FR *Actus Quintus.*] om. FR *Hyp*- F *Egeus and his Lords*] and Philostrate FR ¹ Tis FR strange, F ² fraunge F ³ antique F toies R :]. F ⁴ Louers, F

Such shaping phantasies, that apprehend more 5
 Then coole reason euer comprehends.
 The Lunaticke, the Louer, and the Poet,
 Are of imagination all compact.
 One sees more diuels then vaste hell can hold;
 That is the mad man. The Louer, all as franticke, 10
 Sees *Helens* beauty in a brow of *Egipt*.
 The Poets eye in a fine frenzy rolling, doth glance
 From heauen to earth, from earth to heauen.
 And as imagination bodies forth the forms of things 15
 Vnknowne; the Poets pen turnes them to shapes,
 And giues to aire nothing, a locall habitation,
 And a name. Such tricks hath strong imagination,
 That if it would but apprehend some ioy, [159²]
 It comprehends some bringer of that ioy. 20
 Or in the night, imagining some feare,
 How easie is a bush suppos'd a Beare?

Hip. But all the storie of the night told ouer,
 And all their minds transfigur'd so together,
 More witneffeth than fancies images, 25
 And growes to something of great constancie;
 But howfoeuer, strange, and admirable.

*Enter louers, Lyfander, Demetrius, Hermia,
 and Helena.*

The. Heere come the louers, full of ioy and mirth:
 Ioy, gentle friends, ioy and fresh dayes
 Of loue accompany your hearts. 30

Lyf. More then to vs, waite in your royall walkes,
 your boord, your bed.

The. Come now, what maskes, what dances shall
 we haue,
 To weare away this long age of three houres,
 Between our after supper, and bed-time?
 Where is our vsuall manager of mirth? 35
 What Reuels are in hand? Is there no play,
 To ease the anguish of a torturing houre?
 Call *Egeus*.

Ege. Heere mighty *Thefeus*.

⁶ more, F -hends. The lunaticke, / The louer, and the Poet are of imagination all compact. / F ⁹-els, F vast F holde: F ¹⁰-tick F ¹¹*Egipt* F ¹²eye, F eie R -zy, F ¹³heauen. And as / Imagination F ¹⁵formes FR things / F52 ;j: F penne F ¹⁶ayery F airy R ¹⁸trickes FR ¹⁹R52 ²³But, F -ry FR mindes R ²⁶-cy FR ;j: F ²⁷strange and FR Louers; F louers: R -mia and F ²⁸Here FR ;j: F ²⁹daies FR ³¹roiall R boorde F bedde F ³²now: F daunces F wee FR ³³hours, betweene / F ³⁴-tweene R our] Or FR bed-time. Where is our vsuall manager / Of mirth F ³⁷hower? Call *Philoftrate.* / F ³⁸*Egeus*] *Philoftrate* FR *Ege.*] *Philoftrate.* FR Here F

The. Say, what abridgement haue you for this eue-
ning?

What maske? What muficke? How shall we beguile 40
The lazie time, if not with some delight?

Ege. There is a breefe how many fports are rife :
Make choife of which your Highneffe will see firft.

Lif. The battell with the Centaurs to be fung
By an Athenian Eunuch, to the Harpe. 45

The. Wee'l none of that. That haue I told my Loue
In glory of my kinsman Hercules.

Lif. The riot of the tipfie Bachanals,
Tearing the Thracian finger, in their rage?

The. That is an old deuice, and it was plaid 50
When I from *Thebes* came laft a Conqueror.

Lif. The thrice three Muses, mourning for the death
of learning, late deceaft in beggerie.

The. That is fome Satire keene and critically,
Not forting with a nuptiall ceremonie. 55

Lif. A tedious breefe Scene of yong *Piramus*,
And his loue *Thisby*; very tragicall mirth.

The. Merry and tragicall? Tedious, and briefe? That
is, hot ice, and wondrous strange fnow. How shall wee 60
finde the concord of this difcord?

Ege. A play there is, my Lord, fome ten words long,
Which is as breefe, as I haue knowne a play ;
But by ten words, my Lord, it is too long ;
Which makes it tedious. For in all the play,
There is not one word apt, one Player fitted. 65
And tragicall my noble Lord it is : for *Piramus*
Therein doth kill himfelfe. Which when I faw
Reheart, I muft confefse, made mine eyes water :
But more merrie teares, the paffion of loud laughter 70
Neuer fhed.

Thef. What are they that do play it?

Ege. Hard handed men, that worke in Athens heere,
Which neuer labour'd in their mindes till now ;

³⁹ abridgment R ⁴⁰ maske, FR ⁴¹-zy tyme F ⁴² *Ege.*] *Philof.* FR
briefe, FR rife] ripe F :]. FR ⁴³ choyce, F ⁴⁴ *Lif.*] *The.* FR -taures F
fung, F ⁴⁵ Eunuche F :]. F ⁴⁶ *The.*] *om.* FR Weele F tolde FR
loue, FR ⁴⁸ *Lif.*] *om.* FR ryot F ⁴⁹ FR53 ⁵⁰ *The.*] *om.* FR olde FR
deuife F :]. F ; R plaid, FR ⁵¹-rer F ⁵² *Lif.*] *om.* FR thrife F
⁵³ Of FR deceaft, F -ry FR :]. F ⁵⁴ *The.*] *om.* FR ⁵⁵-ny FR
⁵⁶ *Lif.*] *om.* FR briefe FR young FR *Pyr.* F :]. F ⁵⁷ :]. FR
wondrous F ⁶⁰ we F find F -cord/Of F ⁶¹ *Ege.*] *Philof.* FR long ; F
⁶² briefe FR :]. F ⁶³ But, F Lord it F :]. F ⁶⁵ plaier R ⁶⁶ -call, FR
Lord, FR :]. F *Piramus*, F ⁶⁷-in, F ⁶⁹ eies R :]. R ⁷⁰-ry F
:]. FR ⁷¹ they, F doe F ⁷² *Ege.*] *Phil.* FR here FR ⁷³ minds F
:]. F

And now haue toyled their vnbreathed memories
With this fame play, against your nuptiall. 75

The. And we will heare it.

Phi. No, my noble Lord, it is not for you. I haue heard [160¹]
It ouer, and it is nothing, nothing in the world ;
Vnlesse you can finde sport in their intents,
Extreamely stretch, and cond with cruell paine, 80
To doe you seruice.

Thef. I will heare that play. For neuer any thing
Can be amisse, when simpleness and duty tender it.
Goe bring them in, and take your places, Ladies.

Hip. I loue not to see wretchednesse orecharged ; 85
And duty in his seruice perishing.

Thef. Why gentle sweet, you shall see no such thing.

Hip. He saies, they can doe nothing in this kinde.

Thef. The kinder we, to giue them thanks for nothing
Our sport shall be, to take what they mistake ; 90
And what poore duty cannot doe, noble respect
Takes it in might, not merit.

Where I haue come, great Clearkes haue purposed
To greete me with premeditated welcomes ;
Where I haue seene them shiuer and looke pale, 95
Make periods in the midst of sentences,

Throttle their practiz'd accent in their feares,
And in conclusion, dumbly haue broke off,
Not paying me a welcome. Trust me sweete,

Out of this silence yet, I pickt a welcome : 100
And in the modesty of fearefull duty,
I read as much, as from the ratling tongue
Of fauoy and audacious eloquence.

Loue therefore, and tongue-tide simplicity,
In leaft, speake most, to my capacity. 105

Egeus. So please your Grace, the Prologue is addrest.

Duke. Let him approach. *Flor. Trum.*

Enter the Prologue.

Quince.

Pro. If we offend, it is with our good will.
That you should thinke, we come not to offend,
But with good will. To shew our simple skill, 110
That is the true beginning of our end.
Consider then, we come but in despight.

⁷⁴ -ries, FR ⁷⁶ wee F ⁷⁹ entents F ⁸⁰ Extremely R ⁸¹ do FR
⁸³ duety F ⁸⁴ FR54 ⁸⁶ duety, F duety R -uice, F ⁸⁷ Why, F sweete FR
⁸⁸ faves F do R ⁸⁹ thanks, F -ing. FR ⁹⁰ ;]. F : R ⁹¹ do R
⁹³ Clerkes F ⁹⁴ me, F ⁹⁸ -sion dumbly F ⁹⁹ mee F me, F ¹⁰⁰ fi-
lence, F ¹⁰² rattling F ¹⁰⁴ Loue, F tong-tide F ¹⁰⁶ Egeus.] *Philost.* FR
¹⁰⁷ Flor. Trum.] om. FR *Quince.*] om. FR ¹⁰⁸ wee F

We do not come, as minding to content you,
 Our true intent is. All for your delight,
 We are not heere. That you should here repent you, 115
 The Actors are at hand ; and by their show,
 You shall know all, that you are like to know.

Thef. This fellow doth not stand vpon points.

Lyf. He hath rid his Prologue, like a rough Colt : he
 knowes not the stop. A good morall my Lord. It is not 120
 enough to speake, but to speake true.

Hip. Indeed hee hath plaid on his Prologue, like a
 childe on a Recorder, a found, but not in gouernment.

Thef. His speech was like a tangled chaine : nothing
 impaired, but all disordered. Who is next ? 125

Tawyer with a Trumpet before them.

Enter Pyramus and Thisby, Wall, Moone-shine, and Lyon.

Prol. Gentles, perchance you wonder at this show,
 But wonder on, till truth make all things plaine.
 This man is *Piramus*, if you would know ;
 This beauteous Lady, *Thisby* is certaine.
 This man, with lyme and rough-cast, doth present 130
 Wall, that vile wall, which did these louers funder :
 And through walls chink (poor foules) they are content
 To whisper. At the which, let no man wonder.
 This man, with Lanthorne, dog, and bush of thorne,
 Presenteth moone-shine. For if you will know, 135
 By moone-shine did these Louers thinke no scorne
 To meet at *Ninus* toombe, there, there to wooe :
 This grizy beaft (which Lyon hight by name) [160²]
 The trusty *Thisby*, comming first by night,
 Did scarre away, or rather did affright : 140
 And as she fled, her mantle she did fall ;
 Which Lyon vile with bloody mouth did staine.
 Anon comes *Piramus*, sweet youth and tall,
 And findes his *Thisbies* Mantle flaine ;
 Whereat, with blade, with bloody blamefull blade, 145
 He brauely broacht his boiling bloody breast,
 And *Thisby*, tarrying in Mulberry shade,

¹¹³ doe F ¹¹⁵ Wee F here F ¹¹⁶ ;] : F and, F shoue F ¹¹⁷ knowe, F
¹¹⁸ FR55 ¹¹⁹ Colte F hee FR ¹²⁰ stoppe F ¹²¹ ;] : F ¹²² hee F his]
 this FR ¹²³ child F found ; F gouernement F ¹²⁴ speach F ;] : FR
¹²⁵ *Tawyer with a Trumpet before them.*] om. FR -mus, F Wall,] and
 Wall, and F ¹²⁶ show,] show. F ¹²⁷ But, F truthe F ¹²⁸ Pyr- F
 knowe : F ¹²⁹ -tious FR Lady *Thby* F ¹³⁰ ;] om. R -] om. FR
¹³² wals chinke FR ()], F poore FR ¹³⁴ lanterne, dogge F ¹³⁷ meete FR
 tombe F ¹³⁸ grizly FR ¹³⁹ *Thyf* F ¹⁴¹ ;] : F ¹⁴² Lion R ¹⁴³ *Pyr*- F
 sweete FR youth, F ¹⁴⁴ his] his trusty FR -byes F ;] : F ¹⁴⁶ boyl- F
 bloody FR ,] F ¹⁴⁷ tary- F

His dagger drew, and died. For all the rest,
Let *Lyon*, *Moone-shine*, *Wall*, and *Louers* twaine,
At large discourse, while here they doe remaine. 150

Exit all but Wall.

Thef. I wonder if the *Lion* be to speake.

Deme. No wonder, my Lord: one *Lion* may, when
many *Asses* doe.

Exit Lyon, Thisbie, and Moone-shine.

Wall. In this same Interlude, it doth befall,
That I, one *Snowt* (by name) present a wall: 155
And such a wall, as I vould haue you thinke,
That had in it a crannied hole or chinke:
Through which the *Louers*, *Piramus* and *Thisbie*
Did whisper often, very secretly.
This loame, this rough-cast, and this stone doth shew, 160
That I am that same *Wall*; the truth is so.
And this the cranny is, right and sinifter,
Through which the fearefull *Louers* are to whisper.

Thef. Would you desire *Lime* and *Haire* to speake
better? 165

Deme. It is the vvitteft partition, that euer I heard
discourse, my Lord.

Thef. *Pyramus* drawes neere the *Wall*, silence.

Enter Pyramus.

Pir. O grim lookt night, ô night with hue so blacke,
O night, which euer art, when day is not: 170
O night, ô night, alacke, alacke, alacke,
I feare my *Thisbies* promise is forgot.
And thou ô vvall, thou sweet and louely vvall,
That stands betweene her fathers ground and mine,
Thou vvall, ô vvall, ô sweet and louely vvall, 175
Shew me thy chinke, to blinke through vvith mine eine.
Thankes courteous vvall. *Ioue* shield thee vvell for this.
But vvhath see I? No *Thisbie* doe I see.
O vvicked vvall, through vvhom I see no blisse,
Curst be thy stones for thus deceiuing mee. 180

Thef. The vvall me - thinkes being sensible, should
curse againe.

¹⁴⁸ drewe F dyed F ¹⁵⁰ do R *Exit all but Wall.*] om. FR ¹⁵¹ FR56
-der, F *Lyon* FR ¹⁵² ;] F ¹⁵³ do R *Thyf* by F -by R *Moone-*
shine R ¹⁵⁴ enter- F -lude,] -lude FR ¹⁵⁵ *Snowt*] *Flute* FR ¹⁵⁶ thinke,]
thinke F ¹⁵⁷ cranied F ¹⁵⁸ *Pyramus*, F -by, FR ¹⁵⁹ lome FR -] om. FR
showe, F show. R ¹⁶¹ ;] F ¹⁶² cranie F ¹⁶⁴ speak R ¹⁶⁸ *Pir-* R
neare F ;] F *Enter Pyramus.*] om. FR ¹⁶⁹ night, with F ¹⁷² -byes F
¹⁷³ thou sweet and] ô sweete, ô FR ¹⁷⁴ standt F ¹⁷⁵ sweete FR ¹⁷⁶ Showe
mee F blink FR through, F ¹⁷⁷ Thanks R cur- F well, F ¹⁷⁸ -by FR
do R ¹⁷⁹ whome F ¹⁸⁰ stones, FR me R ¹⁸¹ mee thinkes, F me-thinks R

Pir. No in truth fir, he should not. *Deceiuing me,*
Is *Thisbies* cue ; she is to enter, and I am to spy
Her through the vvall. You shall see it vvill fall. 185

Enter Thisbie.

Pat as I told you ; yonder she comes.

Thif. O vvall, full often hast thou heard my mones,
For parting my faire *Piramus*, and me.
My cherry lips haue often kist thy stones ;
Thy stones vvith Lime and Haire knit vp in thee. 190

Pyra. I fee a voyce ; now vvill I to the chinke,
To spy and I can heare my *Thisbies* face. *Thisbie* ?

Thif. My Loue thou art, my Loue I thinke.

Pir. Thinke vvhat thou vvilt, I am thy Louers grace,
And like *Limander* am I trusty still. 195

Thif. And like *Helen* till the Fates me kill.

Pir. Not *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, was so true.

Thif. As *Shafalus* to *Procrus*, I to you.

Pir. O kisse me through the hole of this vile wall. [163¹]

Thif. I kisse the wals hole, not your lips at all. 200

Pir. Wilt thou at *Ninnies* tombe meete me straight
way ?

Thif. Tide life, tide death, I come without delay.

Wall. Thus haue I *Wall*, my part discharged so ;
And being done, thus *Wall* away doth go. *Exit Clow.*

Du. Now is the morall downe betweene the two 205
Neighbors.

Dem. No remedie my Lord, when Wals are so wil-
full, to heare without vvarning.

Dut. This is the filliest stuffe that ere I heard.

Du. The best in this kind are but shadowes, and the 210
worst are no worfe, if imagination amend them.

Dut. It must be your imagination then, & not theirs.

Duk. If wee imagine no worfe of them then they of
themselues, they may passe for excellent men. Here com
two noble beafts, in a man and a Lion. 215

Enter Lyon and Moone-shine.

Lyon. You Ladies, you (whose gentle harts do feare

¹⁸³ No, F mee is / *Thisbyes* F ¹⁸⁴ ;]: F enter] enter now FR ¹⁸⁵ fall.]
fall FR *Enter Thisbie.*] (*follows line 186*) FR -by F ¹⁸⁶ FR ⁵⁷ ;]: F
¹⁸⁸ *Pyr.* F mee F ¹⁹⁰ stones, F hayire F vp in thee] now againe FR
¹⁹¹ voice FR ;]: F ¹⁹² -byes F ¹⁹³ -by FR ¹⁹⁴ Grace: F ¹⁹⁵ And, F
-der, FR ¹⁹⁶ And] And I, F And I R *Helen*, FR ¹⁹⁷ -alus, F ¹⁹⁹ mee, F
vilde F ²⁰⁰ walles F ;]: F ²⁰¹ thou, F tombe, F toomb R straight-
way R ²⁰² tyde death F ²⁰³ I, F ²⁰⁴ And, F goe FR *Exit Clow.*] *om.* FR
²⁰⁵ morall downe] Moon vsd FR between F ²⁰⁷ -dy, FR
²⁰⁹ stuffe, F ere] euer F ²¹⁰ best, F kinde, F kinde R ;]: F ²¹² -tion, F
;]: F ²¹³ we F them, F ²¹⁴ Heere R come FR ²¹⁵ Lyon FR
Lyon, F ²¹⁶ hearts FR

The smallest monstrous mouse that creepes on floore)
 May now perchance, both quake and tremble heere,
 When Lion rough in wildest rage doth roare.
 Then know that I, one *Snug* the Ioyner am 220
 A Lion fell, nor else no Lions dam :
 For if I should as Lion come in strife
 Into this place, 'twere pittie of my life.

Du. A verie gentle beast, and of a good conscience.

Dem. The verie best at a beast, my Lord, y ere I saw. 225

Lif. This Lion is a verie Fox for his valor.

Du. True, and a Goose for his discretion.

Dem. Not so my Lord: for his valor cannot carrie
 his discretion, and the Fox carries the Goose.

Du. His discretion I am sure cannot carrie his valor: 230
 for the Goose carries not the Fox. It is well; leaue it to
 his discretion, and let vs hearken to the Moone.

Moon. This Lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-
 sent.

De. He should haue worne the hornes on his head.

Du. Hee is no crescent, and his hornes are inuifible, 235
 within the circumference.

Moon. This lanthorne doth the horned Moone pre-
 sent: My selfe, the man i'th Moone doth seeme to be.

Du. This is the greatest error of all the rest; the man
 should be put into the Lanthorne. How is it els the man 240
 i'th Moone?

Dem. He dares not come there for the candle.

For you see, it is already in snuffe.

Dut. I am vvarie of this Moone; vvould he vvould
 change. 245

Du. It appeares by his smal light of discretion, that
 he is in the wane: but yet in courtesie, in all reason, vve
 must stay the time.

Lyf. Proceed Moone.

Moon. All that I haue to say, is to tell you, that the 250
 Lanthorne is the Moone; I, the man in the Moone; this
 thorne bush, my thorne bush; and this dog, my dog.

217 mouse, F 218 now, F here F 219 Lyon rough, FR rage, F
 220 one] as FR 221 FR58 Lyon R Lyons damme FR :]. F , R
 222 For, F should, FR Lyon, F Lyon R strife, FR 223 'twere R
 -ty FR of] on FR 224 very FR 225 very FR 226 Lyon FR very FR
 fox, F -our FR 227,]: F 228,]: FR -our FR -ry FR 229,]: F ; R
 230 -tion, F fure, F -ry FR -our FR .]: FR 231,]: F 232 hearken]
 listen F 234 hornes, F 235 He FR 237 present, / My FR 238 ith F
 ith' R Moone, F doth] doe F do R 239 -our F 240 else FR 241 ith F
 242 there, F candle. For/you F 244 awearie F weary R ;]. F hee
 vvould F 245 appeares, F small FR 247 hee FR cur- FR wee F
 249 -ceede, F 251,]: F I the F in the] ith F ;], F 252,]om. F ;], FR
 dogge my dogge F

Dem. Why all these should be in the Lanthorne: for they are in the Moone. But silence, heere comes *Thisby*.

Enter Thisby.

Thif. This is old *Ninnies* tombe: where is my loue? 255
Lyon. Oh.

The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.

Dem. Well roar'd Lion.

Du. Well run *Thisby*. [163²]

Dut. Well shone Moone.

Truly the Moone shines with a good grace. 260

Du. Wel mouz'd Lion.

Dem. And then came *Piramus*.

Lyf. And so the Lion vanisht.

Enter Piramus.

Pyr. Sweet Moone, I thank thee for thy funny beames,
I thanke thee Moone, for shining now so bright: 265

For by thy gracious, golden, glittering beames,
I trust to taste of truest *Thisbies* sight.

But stay: O spite! but marke, poore Knight,
What dreadful dole is heere? 270

Eyes do you see! How can it be!

O dainty Ducke: O Deere!

Thy mantle good; what stained with blood! 275

Approch you Furies fell:

O Fates! come, come: Cut thred and thrum,
Quaile, crush, conclude, and quell.

Du. This passion, and the death of a deare friend, 280
Would go neere to make a man looke sad.

Dut. Beshrew my heart, but I pittie the man.

Pir. O wherefore Nature, did't thou Lions frame?
Since Lion wilde hath heere deflour'd my deere:
Which is: no, no, which was the fairest Dame 285

That liu'd, that lou'd, that lik'd, that look'd with cheere.

Come teares, confound: Out sword, and wound

²⁵³ Why? F bee F ²⁵⁴ they] all these F :], F here F ²⁵⁵ ould F
Ninies FR tumble. F toomb: R wher's R loue? *Lyon.* Oh. / FR
²⁵⁶ *Jom.* R *The Lion roares, Thisby runs off.* *Jom.* FR ²⁵⁷ FR59 roard, F
roard R *Lyon* FR ²⁵⁸ runne, F runne R -bie R ²⁵⁹ Well . . . shines, / FR
shoone R ²⁶⁰ True- R -ly, F shines, F ²⁶¹ Well FR mouz'd, F
Lyon FR ²⁶² *Pyr.* F ²⁶³ *Lyon* FR *Pyr.* F ²⁶⁴ Sweete FR thanke
thee, F beams. F ²⁶⁵ thee, F :], FR ²⁶⁶ gracious F ²⁶⁷ taste] take FR
-ly F -bie R ²⁷⁰ -full FR here FR ²⁷² bee F ²⁷³ duck F :], FR
deare FR ²⁷⁴ :], FR ²⁷⁵ what, F ²⁷⁶ Approach ye FR :], FR
²⁷⁷ *Jom.* FR :], FR ²⁷⁸ thread and thrumme F ²⁸⁰ friend would / goe FR
²⁸² Beshrewe F -ty FR ²⁸³ O, wherefore, F didst FR *Lyons* FR
²⁸⁴ *Lyon* FR here F :]. F ; R ²⁸⁵ :], FR no, no : F ²⁸⁶ lik't FR
look't FR ²⁸⁷ *Jom.* R :], FR ²⁸⁸ *Jom.* R

The pap of *Piramus* :

I, that left pap, where heart doth hop ; 290

Thus dye I, thus, thus, thus.

Now am I dead, now am I fled, my foule is in the sky, 295

Tongue lofe thy light, Moone take thy flight,

Now dye, dye, dye, dye, dye.

Dem. No Die, but an ace for him ; for he is but one.

Lif. Leffe then an ace man. For he is dead, he is no- 300
thing.

Du. With the helpe of a Surgeon, he might yet reco-
uer, and proue an Affe.

Dut. How chance Moone-shine is gone before?

Thisby comes backe, and findes her Louer. 305

Enter Thisby.

Duke. She wil finde him by starre-light.

Heere she comes, and her paffion ends the play.

Dut. Me thinkes thee should not vse a long one for
such a *Piramus* : I hope she will be breefe.

Dem. A Moth wil turne the ballance, which *Piramus* 310
which *Thisby* is the better. (eyes.)

Lyf. She hath spyed him already, with those sweete

Dem. And thus she meanes, *videlicet*. 315

This. Asleepe my Loue? What, dead my Doue?

O *Piramus* arise :

Speake, Speake. Quite dumbe? Dead, dead? A tombe
Must couer thy sweet eyes.

These Lilly Lips, this cherry nose, 320

These yellow Cowslip cheekes

Are gone, are gone : Louers make mone :

His eyes were greene as Leekes. 325

O sisters three, come, come to mee,

With hands as pale as Milke,

Lay them in gore, since you haue shore 330

With sheeres, his thred of filke.

Tongue not a word : Come trusty fword :

Come blade, my breft imbrue :

²⁸⁹ pappe F *Pyr-* FR ²⁹⁰ pappe F ²⁹¹ hoppe. F ²⁹² dy F die R
²⁹⁵ foule, R, J. F ²⁹⁶ loofe F ²⁹⁸ dy, dy, dy, dy, dy, F ²⁹⁹ ; J. F ³⁰⁰ FR60
ace, F ³⁰³ ; Jom. R and yet proue F ³¹⁴ before? Thifby/comes F
³⁰⁵ *Enter Thisby.*] om. FR ³⁰⁶ Shee . . . thee/ F She . . . comes, / R
will FR him, F star- R ³⁰⁷ Here FR ³⁰⁸ Me-thinkes R -kes, F she FR
one, F ³¹⁰ *Pyr-* F hope, F briefe FR ³¹⁰ will FR ; J. F *Pyr-* F
-mus, FR ³¹¹ -bie R better.] better: he (hee R) for a man ; (, R) God
warnd us : (; R) she, (Jom. R) for a woman ; (, R) God bleffe vs. FR
³¹² spied FR eies R ³¹⁸ *videlicet* ; F ³¹⁴ A sleepe F ³¹⁶ *Piramus*, F
:] FR ³¹⁸ tumble F toombe R ³¹⁹ sweete FR eies R ³²⁰ lippes F
³²² -flippe F ³²³ gon, are gon F : J. R ³²⁵ greene, F ³²⁷ come, to F
me R ³³¹ threede F ³³² Tongue, F word, R ³³³ ; J. FR ³³⁴ breast
imbrew FR

And farwell friends, thus *Thisbie* ends ; 335 [162]
 Adieu, adieu, adieu.

Duk. Moon-shine & Lion are left to burie the dead.

Deme. I, and Wall too.

Bot. No, I assure you, the wall is downe, that parted 340
 their Fathers. Will it please you to see the Epilogue, or
 to heare a Bergomask dance, betweene two of our com-
 pany?

Duk. No Epilogue, I pray you ; for your play needs
 no excuse. Neuer excuse ; for when the plaiers are all 345
 dead, there need none to be blamed. Marry, if hee that
 writ it had plaid *Piramus*, and hung himselfe in *Thisbies*
 garter, it would haue beene a fine Tragedy : and fo it is
 truely, and very notably difcharg'd. But come, your
 Burgomaske ; let your Epilogue alone. 350

The iron tongue of midnight hath told twelue.

Louers to bed, 'tis almost Fairy time.

I feare we shall out-fleepe the comming morne,

As much as we this night haue ouer-watcht.

This palpable grosse play hath well beguil'd 355

The heauy gate of night. Sweet friends to bed.

A fortnight hold we this solemnity.

In nightly Reuels ; and new iollitie. *Exeunt.*

Enter Pucke.

Puck Now the hungry Lyons rores,
 And the Wolfe beholds the Moone : 360

Whilest the heauy ploughman snores,

All with weary taske fore-done.

Now the wafted brands doe glow,

Whil't the scritch-owle, scritch'ing loud,

Puts the wretch that lies in woe, 365

In remembrance of a throwd.

Now it is the time of night,

That the graues, all gaping wide,

Euery one lets forth his spright,

In the Church-way paths to glide. 370

And we Fairies, that do runne,

By the triple *Hecates* teame,

³³⁵ farewell F ;] : F ³³⁶ *Thysby* ends : F ³³⁸ *Moone*- FR Lyon FR
 bury FR to F ³⁴⁰ *Bot.*] *Lyon*. FR you the R ³⁴¹ you, F ³⁴² -maske
 daunce, between F ³⁴⁴ FR61 ;]. F ³⁴⁵ ;]: F players FR ³⁴⁶ deade F
 neede F Mary F he R ³⁴⁷ it, F played F *Pyr*- F hangd F hang'd R
³⁴⁹ come your F ³⁵⁰ ;]: F ³⁵¹ tolde FR ³⁵² tis FR ³⁵³ *jom*. F ³⁵⁴ wee F
 -*jom*. F ³⁵⁶ -ue F ³⁵⁷ Sweete friends, F ³⁵⁸ holde F -tie F .], FR
³⁵⁹ ;], FR -ty FR ³⁶⁰ roares. F ³⁶¹ ;]: FR ³⁶² Whilft FR -ue F
³⁶³ foredoone F ³⁶⁴ do R glowe F ³⁶⁵ Whilft FR scriche- F scriche-
 ing lowd F ³⁶⁶ wretch, F lyes F ³⁶⁷ throwde F ³⁶⁸ -*jom*. FR ³⁶⁹ wee F
 doe F runne R

From the prefence of the Sunne,
 Following darkenesse like a dreame,
 Now are frolicke ; not a Moufe 375
 Shall disturbe this hallowed houfe.
 I am fent with broome before,
 To sweep the dust behinde the doore.

Enter King and Queene of Fairies, with their traine.

Ob. Through the houfe giue glimmering light,
 By the dead and drowfie fier, 380 [162²]
 Euerie Elfe and Fairie spright,
 Hop as light as bird from brier,
 And this Ditty after me, sing and dance it trippinglie.
Tita. First rehearse this song by roate, 385
 To each word a warbling note.
 Hand in hand, with Fairie grace,
 Will we sing and blesse this place.

The Song.

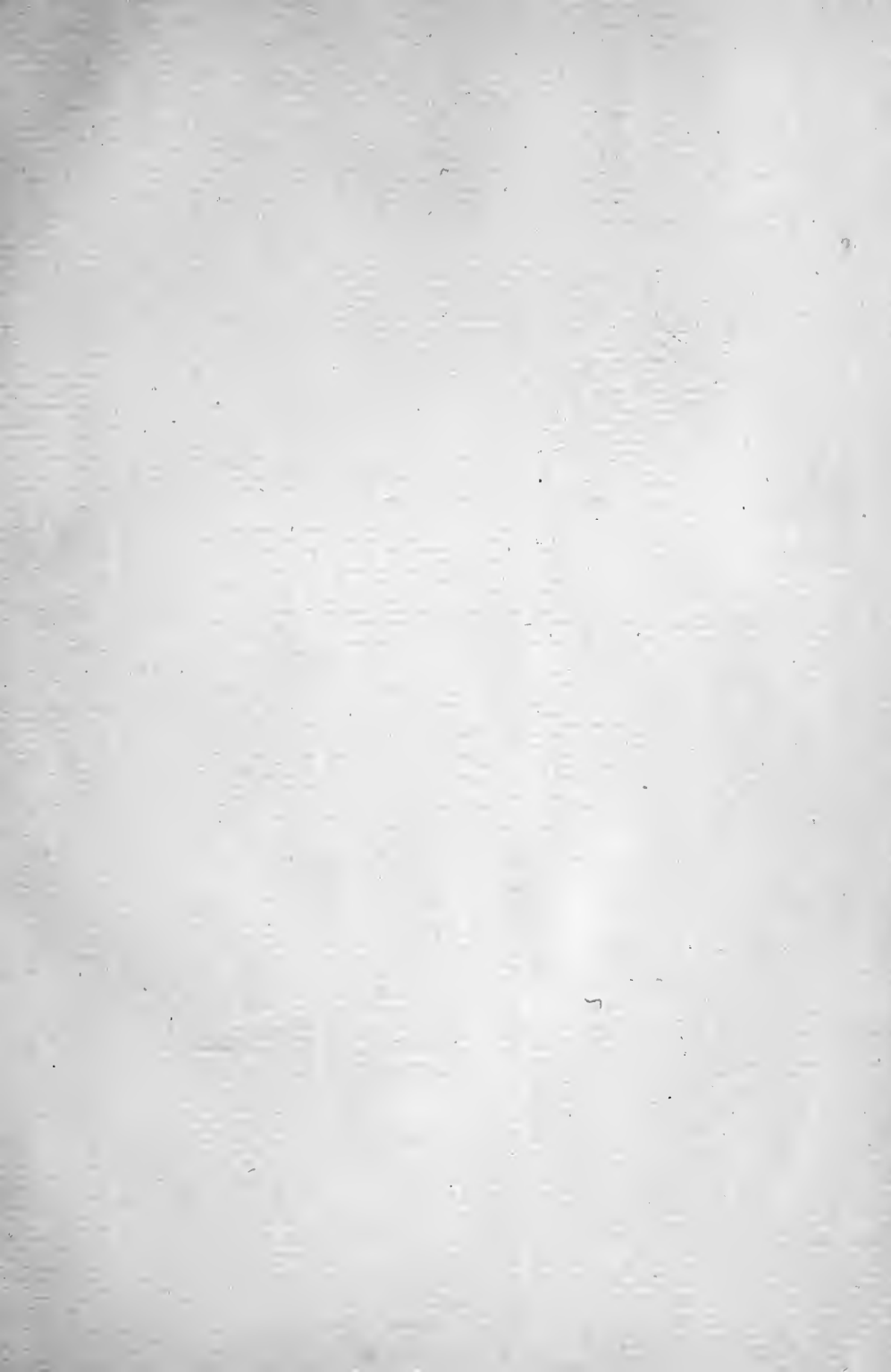
Now untill the breake of day,
Through this house each Fairy stray. 390
To the best Bride-bed will we,
Which by vs shall blessed be :
And the issue there create,
Euer shall be fortunate :
So shall all the couples three, 395
Euer true in louing be :
And the blots of Natures hand,
Shall not in their issue stand.
Neuer mole, harelip, nor scarre,
Nor marke prodigious, such as are 400
Despised in Natiuitie,
Shall vpon their children be.
With this field dew consecrate,
Euery Fairy take his gate,
And each feuerall chamber blesse, 405
Through this Pallace with sweet peace,
Euer shall in safety rest,
And the owner of it blest.
Trip away, make no stay ;
Meet me all by breake of day. 410

³⁷⁴ darknesse R ³⁷⁵ -lick : F ³⁷⁷ fent, F broome, F ³⁷⁸ FR62
 sweepe FR dust, F dore F *their*] all *their* FR ³⁸¹ Euery FR Fairy FR
³⁸² birde F ³⁸³ -tie F mee F ³⁸⁴ Sing, F daunce F -ly FR ³⁸⁵ this]
 your F rote F ³⁸⁷ -ry FR grace ; R ³⁸⁸ *The Song.*] om. FR ³⁸⁹ Now]
Ob. Now FR Now, F ³⁹⁰ houfe, FR ³⁹¹ bride bed F wee : F ³⁹³ issue, F
³⁹⁵ ,om. F ³⁹⁷ ,om. F ³⁹⁹ hare-lippe F hare-lip R ⁴⁰¹ -ty R ⁴⁰³ deaw F
⁴⁰⁶ palace, FR sweete FR ⁴⁰⁹ Trippe F ,] : F ,] : F ⁴¹⁰ Meete FR
 all, FR day.] day. *Exeunt.* FR

Robin. If we shadowes haue offended,
 Thinke but this (and all is mended)
 That you haue but flumbred heere,
 While these visions did appeare.
 And this weake and idle theame, 415
 No more yeelding but a dreame,
 Centles, doe not reprehend.
 If you pardon, we will mend.
 And as I am an honest *Pucke*,
 If we haue vnearned lucke, 420
 Now to scape the Serpents tongue,
 We will make amends ere long :
 Elfe the *Pucke* a lyar call.
 So good night vnto you all.
 Giue me your hands, if we be friends, 425
 And *Robin* shall restore amends.

FINIS.

⁴¹³ FR63 here F ⁴¹⁴ thefe] this R ⁴¹⁶ yield- F ⁴¹⁷ Gentles FR
 do R ⁴¹⁸ wee F ⁴¹⁹ And, F *Puck* F ⁴²⁰ luck F ⁴²² amends, F
⁴²³ Elfe, F *Puck* a lyer F ⁴²⁴ So, F ⁴²⁵ friends : F

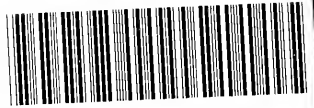








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